



Ministers in 'fantasy land' over moving staff to city – MP **RETHINK CALL ON TAX JOBS THREAT**

Report by Peter Madeley

MINISTERS have been accused of living in 'fantasy land' over the impact of closing tax offices in Brierley Hill.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said the Government had so far given 'no answers' to concerns he raised over proposals to shut HMRC's tax credits office at The Waterfront, with the potential loss of 250 jobs.

Labour MP Mr Austin said the closure would be 'a huge setback' for the Black Country. Ministers said staff could move to the new HMRC Birmingham central office, due to open in 2020.



Ian Austin MP

Mr Austin led a Parliamentary debate on the issue calling on Financial Secretary Mel Stride to 'look again' at the proposals and the timetable.

He said: "I think the minister gave us no answers at all to be quite honest. We want him to look at this properly."

"That idea that people should be travelling from Brierley Hill to central Birmingham and back in the rush hour is complete fantasy land. You'd either need Lewis Hamilton to be driving or have a helicopter."

Last summer civil servants at the Dudley office were told they would be transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions to work on the introduction and implementation of Universal Credit. Then, in October, they were informed they would remain at the Waterfront working on the new benefit.

"Instead, at the end of January it was announced that the Government had changed their mind, that their jobs were at risk and that the office would close," Mr Austin told MPs. "That came as a huge shock to the hard-working, highly skilled and loyal staff."

Conservative MP Mike Wood, whose Dudley South constituency includes the HMRC offices, has urged the Government to give employees 'the certainty that they need'. Mr Stride has agreed to meet with the two Dudley MPs.

FAREWELL DODDY, HOW TICKLED WE WERE



Sir Ken Dodd pictured with the late Black Country comedian Tommy Mondon during one of his many visits to the Dudley area

ONE of the last of a golden generation of entertainers Ken Dodd leaves us the greatest gift he possessed... happiness.

He came from Liverpool but the people of the Black Country took him to their hearts like one of their own as he clocked up hundreds of hours, and thousands of laughs, on stages across the region over the years.

More than 60 years after first performing, Sir Ken – known to most as Doddy – was still drawing a crowd at the grand age of 90 with

many hoping to see him at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton this Sunday before news of his death came after a short illness.

Comedian and actor Josie Lawrence, from Old Hill, said: "I took mom and dad to see An Audience With Ken Dodd and still have the tape of that great night. You can see my dad on it – he's laughing, really laughing, and it's one of my most prized possessions. So thank you for that and for your genius".

Malcolm Palmer from the Stourbridge

branch of the George Formby Society, of which Dodd was a member, said: "I've met Ken on numerous time and he was always very supportive of the campaign to reopen the (Dudley) Hippodrome."

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Dave Tyler said: "Sir Ken Dodd always said he loved coming to Dudley. Packed houses, genuine comedy and love from his fans in Dudley. Farewell friend."

● Remembering Doddy – see page 3

COUNCIL

Borough to take in 20 refugee families

A COMPANY is being offered up to £350,000 by Dudley Council to help resettle Syrian refugees in the borough.

Dudley Council has committed to take in 20 families left homeless by the civil war that has been raging in Syria over five years. So far it has taken in six families.

The local authority is looking for a firm to support housing and integrating the refugees. It has put a four-year contract out to tender, valued between £100,000 and £350,000. Councils receive £8,520 per refugee from the Government plus £4,500 to provide education for every child.

POLICE

Rise in violence and sex crimes

MORE than 150 violent and sexual offences were reported across Dudley in January, new figures have revealed.

A total of 164 attacks were reported across the borough compared to the same month in 2016 – which saw 115.

The increase has prompted calls for more community police officers on the streets. Dudley councillor Susan Ridney said she believed cuts to the police were partly to blame for the rise.

CONSTRUCTION

Dozens of Carillion jobs go at hospital

MORE than two dozen Carillion workers are being axed at the Midland Metropolitan Hospital site as rumours swirl that a Swedish construction firm is being lined up to take over building work.

Nearly two years behind schedule, the scheme in Smethwick has been at a standstill since Wolverhampton-based Carillion crashed in January.

● £6.4m on consultants – page 11

INSIDE

MODERN RAIL IS ON TRACK



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CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

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CLASSIFIED:
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DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
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E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Dudley Chronicle
Thursday, March 15, 2018

Dudley CHRONICLE

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Brierley Hill-Stourbridge link proposed



Site of planned tram stop

A RAILWAY or tram line extension is being considered by transport bosses as they begin to look beyond the completion of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Midland Metro route.

Work has started to clear the 11km-route from Cottage Street in Brierley Hill to Great Western Street in Wednesbury as part of the planned extension, which will go along seven kilometres (just under four and a half miles) of disused railway line. It is scheduled to be completed by 2023.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said work was also being done on plans for a

transport line extension to Stourbridge, either extending the Midland Metro tram line or laying down a new railway line.

He said: "There is planning taking place on how we can continue the tram or railway line to Stourbridge from Dudley.

Network

"It would mean people from Dudley could join the main rail network at two different locations."

The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill link to the railway network would be at

Dudley Port main line station, near to Tipton.

The new Metro route will also go from Brierley Hill to Merry Hill shopping centre, Dudley town centre and Great Bridge. Trams would run every six minutes at peak times.

Stourbridge Line User Group member Don Barton has backed the plans for the line linking Stourbridge and Brierley Hill but said he would prefer it to be a railway line rather than tram. He added: "Any line extension would be good news for the area, improving the transport network and reducing congestion."

Light at the end of tunnel for rail dream

'I'M not here on a whim – I'm here because I genuinely believe we have got to do this'

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling wants to give the Black Country's transport system lift-off with his backing for three major schemes.

In a whistle-top tour of the region, Mr Grayling first arrived at the future site of Willenhall Railway Station, to be built as part of the reopening of passenger services between Wolverhampton and Walsall.

He then made the four-mile journey to Midland Metro's Wednesbury depot where he drove a new battery-powered tram, which will operate without overhead lines in Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Finally, he headed to Brierley Hill town centre where he inspected the site of a planned terminus for trams on the planned Wednesbury to Dudley Midland Metro extension.

Opportunity

At Brierley Hill, in Cottage Street near to the Asda supermarket, Mr Grayling and West Midlands Mayor Andy Street was joined by Dudley South MP Mike Wood and Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley.

It is where the Wednesbury to Dudley line, which follows a disused railway line for most of the way, will end. There will be a total of 17 stations along the route, which will initially end at Merry Hill shopping centre in 2022. A £250m grant from the Government last year made the 11km-route a reality.

Mr Wood said: "The Government has given us the money and now we are working hard to clear the line and open up the route – in a few years it will give Dudley and Brierley Hill a passenger rail service for the first



Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling gets into the driving seat of a new battery-powered tram

time in decades." The passenger railway service from Dudley closed in 1964.

Mr Grayling said: "We are absolutely committed as a government and we have a great partnership with Andy Street in the West Midlands to deliver the right kind of transport system for the future."

"This Metro network is absolutely what the Birmingham and West Midlands needs, its a real opportunity to improve connections and to do so in a

way which is quicker and easier than building new railway lines.

At Midland Metro's Wednesbury depot, Mr Grayling got in the driver's seat of a battery-powered tram. It does not require overhead lines and is the first of its type in the country. The tram is still being tested and is to come into use when the Wolverhampton Metro extension to the city's railway station opens in two years' time.

Mr Grayling said: "This is the first step to a technological revolution."

The lithium batteries in the tram are charged up by overhead lines before being able to power the vehicle without maintaining contact with overhead cables. The batteries were fitted in Spain and will be used on the entire Metro fleet, at a cost of £15.5m.

The Metro will be cable free through Victoria Square to Centenary Square in Birmingham city centre. The use of battery trams is also being considered for the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill route.

Jail for man armed with air rifle in the street

A 26-YEAR-OLD man who terrified a stranger in a Dudley street by brandishing an air rifle covered with a bin bag has been locked up for 12 months.

A judge heard that Kyi Smith from Washington Court, Hillside Road, Dudley, was allegedly wearing camouflage clothing.

An alarmed woman feared the worst when she saw him near Eagle Close, on September 24 last year, and alerted police who traced and arrested him within 20 minutes.

He had bought the £175 air rifle earlier that day and it was still wrapped up when the officers arrived, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The defendant had been jailed for five and a half years in April 2013 for possession of a revolver which was found under a setttee at his home during an earlier police raid. This conviction banned him from having guns, including the potentially lethal high powered air rifle he had just bought, after being freed from the jail early on licence.

Smith maintained he had not been told this and Mr Charles Hamer, prosecuting, conceded it was not included in the paperwork given to the defendant on release.

Certificate

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, declared: "If the air rifle needed a firearms certificate it may have been obvious that he would be prohibited from owning one. It would be less obvious when the gun is freely on sale to those over the age of 18."

"In any event the air rifle just fell on the wrong side of the threshold which has to be crossed by a gun to be categorised as among weapons covered by the prohibition order."

Smith admitted having a firearm when prohibited from doing so. He was jailed for 12 months.

Judge Dean Kershaw told him: "I cannot conclude that this was blatant abuse because it is unlikely you would have been told you could not possess such a gun and this lowers your blameworthiness. But this was stupid behaviour. You were showing off, displaying some sort of bravado and the witness who saw you was very frightened. She did not realise it was an air gun."

Choir and students in church concert

KINGSWINFORM Choral Society will join students from The Elgar School of Music in Worcester and Elmfield School in Stourbridge to perform a joint concert at St James's Church in Stourbridge on Saturday at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 on the door, under-18s go free.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Petition against bus route changes

A PETITION is being launched to get a bus service's old route reinstated after a section in Brockmoor was axed. The 228 service was withdrawn from Wallows Road in Brockmoor by Hansons Bus Company in April last year. The service, which runs from Kinner to Brierley Hill, stopped using Wallows Road when it was extended to Russells Hall Hospital. Residents instead have to use a stop in Pensnett Road, which means a steep walk.

Brockmoor and Pensnett councillors are set to launch a petition and present in to Transport For West Midlands. Diamond Bus now operates the route.

Video chase driver hands himself in

A TEENAGER suspected of speeding away from officers in a stolen car has been arrested after handing himself in at a police station.

The 18-year-old was arrested on Friday on suspicion of car theft and failing to stop following the pursuit in Dudley last Wednesday. The chase started in Selbourne Road, Dixons Green, when officers spotted a Ford Fiesta believed to using false plates.

Enquiries are on-going to trace another man, a passenger in the car, who is understood to have posted a video of the chase on social media.

Further charge in flat killing case

ANOTHER teenager has been charged over the murder of Jaskaran Kang in Dudley.

The 17 year-old, from Dudley, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was arrested on Thursday morning and remanded in custody to appear before Dudley Magistrates Court.

Mr Kang, aged 24, from Handsworth, was found fatally stabbed at a flat in Stourbridge Road, Dudley, on January 6. Four other men, aged 17 to 20, have already been charged with murder and another with conspiracy to commit robbery.

Private garden opens in aid of Wings charity

ASHWOOD Nurseries owner John Massey is opening his private garden near Kingswinford in aid charity on Saturday.

The garden open day at the nurseries in Ashwood Lower Lane and will be held in aid of Wombourne Special Needs Support Group (Wings).

The event, from 10am to 4pm, offers the chance to see a spectacular early spring show. Admission costs £5 (cash only).

College under fire over decision to scrap A-levels

STOURBRIDGE college has been urged to re-think a decision to scrap A-levels from September.

Stourbridge College's decision has been criticised with parents now left with just weeks to make other arrangements for children who planned to study A-levels at the college. A councillor in Stourbridge called the move to axe A-levels at one of the region's major colleges 'disappointing' and said bosses should reconsider.

The college, which is run by the Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMet) and caters for hundreds of students across the Black Country, announced last week that A-levels were to be phased out as part of a shift towards more vocational courses.

Current A-level students will be able to complete their courses.

Stourbridge councillor Nicolas Barlow said: "I can't understand the reasoning behind it. It is a bit disappointing they have taken this decision. They need to have a look and have a re-think about the impact it will have on various schools that feed into the Stourbridge area. It is a bit ill-timed and perhaps a bit ill-thought through."

Gill Coldicott, head of Stourbridge College, said: "Every prospective student who has applied to start A-levels in September has been notified of the decision and offered access to advice and guidance and information on alternative courses at BMet."

Late night concern of elderly patients

ALMOST 1,800 pensioners across the Black Country were discharged from hospital overnight - with many left to make their own way home during the hours of darkness.

The figures show that the practice, criticised by a former NHS England boss, continues despite fears it could be dangerous for vulnerable elderly people.

A substantial number of those patients were aged 85 or older.

The numbers cover patients aged 65 or above who were discharged from medical wards between the hours of 10pm and 6am.

In April 2012, Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, then NHS England medical director, called on hospitals to cut down on overnight discharges following a series of cases where vulnerable patients had been left stranded.

Four years ago the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee said discharges between 11pm and 6am had led to deaths.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust released 430 pensioners in the middle of the night, among them 111 aged over 85.

£24m scheme to update leisure centres

A £24 million vision for the future of leisure centres in Dudley has been revealed. The borough's three centres will feature state-of-the-art facilities following major investment.

Details of the plans have emerged, which will see a new leisure centre built on Flood Street, Dudley, to replace the current building on Wellington Road, and sites at Stourbridge and Halesowen refurbished.

The centres in Dudley and Halesowen would both be fitted with 25-metre pools.

Bosses have now confirmed the new Dudley leisure centre, hailed by council chiefs as a facility 'fit for the 21st century', will be built on the Flood Street car park as part of plans to regenerate that part of the town.

It will be named in honour of Dudley-born Manchester United and England football legend Duncan Edwards.

Under current plans, it will include a 25-metre, eight-lane pool and smaller learning pool. There will also be a five-court sports hall, a gym, two studios, a viewing area and cafe.

The Wellington Road facility would be bulldozed and the site sold off for development.

Refurbished

Existing centres in Stourbridge and Halesowen, which have become run-down and dated, will undergo major overhauls.

The pool at Stourbridge will be refurbished and

there will be new changing rooms. At Halesowen, the existing 33-yard pool will be converted into a 25-metre, eight-lane pool. The gym will also be extended.

Regeneration boss Councillor Ian Kettle said: "We are delighted with the upgrade of our facilities, which will meet the public's aspiration and needs."

"We have made great progress and things are looking good for the future."

He added: "These facilities are part of our healthy vision for the borough as we do need to get more people active."

Work on the Dudley and Stourbridge centres is expected to start in April 2019 and at Halesowen a year later.

Crackdown launched on litterbugs and dog mess

A ZERO-TOLERANCE squad is set to pound the streets of Dudley in a blitz on litter louts and dog fouling.

The council has employed Kingdom Enforcement Services, including ex-police and military personnel armed with body cameras, to take on responsibility for patrolling the streets, parks and open spaces across the borough in a year-long trial.

The initiative is expected to see a significant increase in the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for those who drop litter or fail to pick up after their pets.

The move will not cost the council, with Kingdom receiving payment directly as a percentage of the financial penalties issued.

The local authority will still retain a percentage of the income from the fixed penalty notices.

Officers

The company will initially have five officers on the beat plus one team leader overseeing operations. It already works with more than 30 local authorities across the country, including Wolverhampton City Council.

More than 9,000 FPNs were issued in Wolverhampton in 2016 after the firm were brought in by the local authority. Comparative figures show just 25 were handed out from April 2014 to March 2015, before the firm took over.

New litter police in Walsall last year reported handing out 250 fines worth a potential £20,000 in just under six months in the battle to clean up the borough after council chiefs employed private enforcement firm 3GS. Sandwell Council fined just 10 people for dropping litter in 2015/2016.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for Dudley's environmental services, said: "We will have more enforcement people on the streets, which councillors and residents are lobbying for daily."

"The officers will be highly visible and with the increased number of fixed penalty notices being handed out this can only lead to cleaner streets, which is what we all want."

Dudley venue was special for Doddy



Ken Dodd pictured with fellow top turns helping to cut the birthday cake at Dudley Hippodrome in 1957

DUDLEY Hippodrome was one of the late Sir Ken Dodd's favourite venues.

The now boarded-up venue on Castle Hill was a stage for Dodd on numerous occasions, including the comedian's debut year in 1954. He returned in 1957, by then already a star, to mark the venue's birthday by cutting the

cake. He went on to perform at all the major venues in the Black Country and Birmingham.

Two years ago he offered to perform for free to help raise funds for the proposed revamp of the building. Now there will be no benefit concert and the venue's future looks bleak after Dudley Council took back the lease, say-

ing campaigners could not attain their targets to save the venue.

Sir Lenny Henry tweeted: "I first saw Doddy in 1975 at the Blackpool Opera house. Comedians all over the shop hiding pens and pads. He ravaged us with gags, one after the other. After an hour and a half he paused, looked at us and said 'd'you give in?'"

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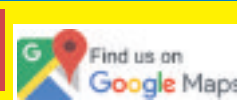
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Caution urged on fire service plan

UKIP has urged caution over plans by the West Midlands super council to take over the region's fire service.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street would have sole accountability for the governance of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service in the scheme. But Ukip Euro MP James Carver said: "If this change goes ahead the Mayor will be responsible for the community safety plan, budgeting, setting the fire council tax precept and appointing the chief fire officer, who in turn, would be directly accountable to the Mayor. I fear there could be a democratic deficit and we need assurances this committee will have some powers of veto."

Elf movie comes to stage in Brum

DAVID Essex, Martine McCutcheon and Tam Ryan will star in Elf: A Christmas Spectacular, a show based on the popular Hollywood festive comedy movie.

The musical is coming to Birmingham's Genting Arena in December.

Veteran pop singer and actor Essex will star as Buddy the Elf's father and will be joined by pop star McCutcheon as Buddy's girlfriend Jovie, and Coronation Street's Ryan as Buddy.

The cast will also include children from Birmingham stage school Pauline Quirke Academy.

Two charged over biker 'nuisance'

TWO men from the Black Country are among 10 charged for a 'reckless' bike ride that caused chaos on West Midlands' roads.

Jermaine Saa, 27, of Marksbury Close in Wolverhampton and Ryan Pointon, 26, from Oak Road in Oldbury have been charged with causing public nuisance back in June 2016.

They have both pleaded not guilty to the charges and will appear at Birmingham Crown Court for trial on April 5. They appeared at Birmingham Magistrates' Court last week where they made their plea.

Hundreds in dungeon at Nightmare Live

NEARLY 300 people packed into Brierley Hill Civic Hall to take a trip down memory lane in the shape of a stage adaptation of cult kids 'TV show Nightmare.

Nightmare Live was an affectionate parody of the 1980s-90s fantasy show which enthralled many. There were puzzles, riddles, sword-wielding knights, goblins and even a full-size talking dragon – every twist and turn lapped up by a crowd of young and old.

Take a peaky at this booming business



Chris Sadler, right, and sales director Ian King toast the success of Sadler's

A GROWING Black Country brewery and pub chain is opening its first bar in Birmingham.

Lye-based Sadler's Ales is creating up to eight jobs at the Sadler's Tap Room in Hagley Road West, Quinton. Sadler's managing director Chris Sadler said that the former shop premises were being refurbished ready for opening this spring.

The new bar will offer a full range of the beers produced at the company's brewery on Conyers Trading Estate in Station Drive and will offer burgers and street food. "We just re-

ceived the keys. We are delighted to be bringing Sadler's in to Birmingham," said Mr Sadler.

It follows the recent opening of a Sadler's Peaky Blinder bar at the Genting Arena, NEC, which will be open for major concerts selling Sadler's Peaky Blinders beers. "It will open for concerts that attract a more adult audience," said Mr Sadler.

"By the end of the year we should have two more open following on from Quinton," he added.

The business dates from 1900 and also has The Windsor Castle pub in

Lye, Sadler's Brewhouse and Bar above the brewery, plus a pub and restaurant in Southampton.

An extension to the brewery, which will see production quadrupled, is nearly complete.

Sadler's Ales, which also produces Peaky Blinders gin, whiskey and rum, has also won a distribution deal in Romania. The company has also been praised by Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion Baroness Fairhead, who said: "Sadler's Ales are a great example of a local business which is seizing global opportunities."

Concern at homes plan near to chemical plant

PLANS to build dozens of homes near a chemical plant which deals with highly flammable goods have been criticised.

There are proposals for 61 homes – including 36 houses and 25 apartments – at the former site of vehicle repair business Bodykraft in Brierley Hill.

Developer Westleigh Homes submitted the application to build the estate at the junction of Canal Street and Dudley Road. It would be close to the Hammond Chemicals factory, which stores, processes, packs and distributes hazardous industrial solvent.

Councillor Christine Perks, who represents the area, said the proposals had been rejected by Dudley Council's planning committee previously but new plans had been put forward.

"My thoughts are the same as they were before," she said. "I don't think building homes there is an ideal place next to a chemical factory.

Rejected

"I know we've got new build houses in some funny places but next to a chemical factory – it does worry you. It's frightening to think if an accident would happen. The application went to planning some time ago and it was rejected."

Plans for 57 homes on the site were rejected by the planning committee in September last year, despite it being recommended for approval by planning officers. The developers submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate following its refusal and a decision is currently pending.

Hammonds Chemicals, which has been based on the site for 45 years and employs 30 people, has urged the council to reject the scheme. The firm says it believes the development 'will adversely prejudice the ongoing operation' of its business."

A spokesman for Westleigh said: "We have been working closely with the relevant authorities and have taken the necessary steps to help mitigate any concerns surrounding the complexities of the site. Health and safety is always our number one priority."

On song for The Voice talent scouts



Michelle Williams from Stourbridge was a contender at The Voice audition for Black Country singers

THEY gave it their all as hopefuls flocked to an audition proving the Black Country has most certainly got a voice.

Hopefuls flocked to The Cuban Exchange in Wolverhampton last week in a bid to impress talent scouts from ITV's The Voice at an open mic night.

A total of 17 acts performed in a bid to secure a spot at the next audition stage.

One of the many to take to the stage was David Evans, 20, from Wombourne, whose sister Katie, 19, also performed.

The Stourbridge College music performance student gave his all

in a performance of Alex Clare's Too Close.

He said: "It started off when we used to go on holidays and do karaoke in bars. The people that are on The Voice like Tom Jones is a massive iconic figure for me. A lot of the old golden artists they are a massive inspiration for me."

Family are commended on campaign to find 'Liggy'

THE family of a man found dead seven weeks after he went missing were praised at his inquest for their nationwide appeal to find him.

It came as the tragic details of Matthew Gill's death were revealed at a coroner's court hearing.

The search for Mr Gill, who went missing on October 6 last year, caught attention as Wolves and Albion both joined the appeal and missing posters were distributed across the country. But his family's hopes were shattered when his body was found on land off Prestwood Drive, near Stourton, on November 28.

Cannock Coroner's Court heard how the 43-year-old Stourbridge man, who died as a result of hanging, was found by a girl when moving horses on November 28.

The inquest heard that foliage may have obscured the location of the body when police originally scoured the area. Mr Gill, who was known as Liggy, had been suffering with anxiety and depression.

Police discovered his silver Smart Roadster car near Petzone, off the A449 at Prestwood, after he vanished. His mobile phone had been switched on for a few hours on October 19.

Coroner Andrew Haigh recorded a conclusion of suicide. He commended Mr Gill's family and friends for their efforts to try to find their loved one.

Man convicted of pub row murder

A GRANDFATHER who stabbed a man to death in a dispute over a game of pool has been convicted of murder.

After deliberating for eight hours, the jury returned a unanimous guilty verdict on Lyndon Smith who knifed 20-year-old John Joyce in the street in Bilston after being called 'a fool' in a pub row.

The victim's family, who had travelled from Ireland for the two-week trial, wept as the verdict was announced.

Smith, 47, stabbed Mr Joyce four times with a kitchen knife after confronting members of his party who he had earlier been playing pool with him at the Market Tavern on August 17.

Some banter over the rules led Smith, who had drank up to 10 pints of lager, to walk out.

He drove to his home less than a mile away, where it is believed he got the knife, and then returned to the pub, where he began his search for the men before confronting them in the street.

Father-of-four Smith, of Owen Road, Bilston, had denied all charges. He is due to be sentenced today (Thursday).

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Metro Mayor stepping up Channel 4 campaign

CAMPAIGN work to encourage Channel 4 to set up a 'national headquarters' in the region is being stepped up.

It comes after the broadcaster confirmed it was to find a location outside London for the HQ. Two creative hubs for the channel will also be opened, although its London headquarters will remain.

Brierley Hill is among Coventry, Solihull and Birmingham on a list of four West Midlands locations to be considered by the broadcaster. The move will see 300 staff move out of London.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street is championing the Midlands campaign. He said: "I want to reflect on the energy that has gone into the social media campaign to persuade the Channel 4 board and indeed the Government that the West Midlands should be the new home for this iconic broadcaster."

"It's been brilliant to see the energy, the way the youth, the diversity, the story of the West Midlands has really got behind the campaign.

"We've told them that a digital broadcaster really should be based in the West Midlands. Let's make sure that we really win this case.

Culture Secretary Matt Hancock said: "I'm delighted Channel 4 have decided, under the strong new leadership of Alex Mahon, to establish the new national HQ outside of London."

Toys R Us start to close stores

TOYS R Us stores are to begin closing this week as hopes fade for finding a buyer for the stricken business, which employs more than 3,000.

The toy chain, which includes stores at Oldbury and at the Merry Hill shopping centre, appointed Moorfields Advisory to oversee administration at the end of February after the firm failed to find a rescuer.

Moorfields said it would begin an 'orderly wind-down' of stores and it is now understood that the insolvency specialist is poised to close the first batch as it runs down stock. Hundreds of jobs are set to be lost. It is thought Moorfields will begin with the closure of at least 26 loss-making stores earmarked late last year, including Tamworth and Shrewsbury.

No cull says trust

STAFFORDSHIRE Wildlife Trust has vowed that it will not give permission for any badger culling at the 27 nature reserve sites it runs in Staffordshire including Highgate Common, near Kingswinford

Trainee GP cleared of patient assaults



Amirul Haque – acquitted

A TRAINEE GP has been cleared of sexually assaulting five patients in 10 days during a temporary posting at a Black Country surgery.

Amirul Haque was only a few weeks into a four-month placement at the Dudley practice when the allegations were made and police alerted, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 33-year-old said: "I am relieved by the verdict, and thankful to my family and friends for their continued support. I look forward to rebuilding my life and the opportunity of returning to practice in the future."

He was accused of thrusting his groin into the back of patients and unnecessarily placing his hands inside underwear and exposing breasts during consultations.

But the doctor suggested there may have been collusion between the five women and their complaints had not been made independently of each other. A post referring to the doctor's alleged behaviour had been put on Facebook before any patient had made an official complaint, the jury were told.

The defence suggested it would be reasonable to infer there may have

been collusion between some or all of the women.

Judge Amjad Nawaz told the jury that to convict they had to be sure that each complainant was acting independently without their evidence being 'contaminated' by that of any others.

The defendant was nearing the end of his formal training following five years at medical school when he arrived at the Dudley practice.

The jury acquitted Dr Haque, from Ladypool Road, Balsall Common, of five charges of sexual assault.

Costs will be paid out of public funds.

Action group to tackle off-road biker menace

AN action group will be set up in a bid to tackle the scourge of off-road bikers at a nature reserve.

Fed-up residents are to form a friends group over rising concerns about nuisance bikers at Fens Pools Nature Reserve in Pensnett.

Police and council bosses have been urged to take action to try and put a stop to youths riding around the beauty spot.

Dozens attended a meeting with councillors and police officers last week to discuss the problem. They heard that members of the Friends of the Fens Pools group will patrol the area and report any concerns to police.

There has been an increased police presence at the nature reserve in recent weeks amid rising concerns from walkers and nearby residents.

The group will be backed by local councillors who have agreed to provide funding through a community forum, which supports initiatives in their area.

Supported

The nature reserve, which features the Fens Pool and Middle Pool lakes, is popular with families and dog walkers and there are fears continued use of the area by off-road bikers will lead to people staying away.

Ward councillor Judy Foster, the former deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "There is going to be a friends group set up which will be supported financially, initially, by a small grant councillors can allocate through the community forum.

"It will be community led and supported by ward councillors. I think this is the way forward. I'm really grateful to the community for showing their concerns."

Councillor Foster believes more action is needed from the council and police.

She added: "Police have issued a number of notices on nature reserves but there is still a lot more they need to do. It is a challenge for police, having lost over 2,000 officers, and budget cuts. Calls to the nature reserve are competing with higher level calls on burglaries and thefts. It is never high on the priority list."

Say cheese if you're enjoying festival



Cheese fan Stevie Fellows ready to take on a chunk of Stilton 'the King of Cheeses' at the festival

THE crowds were going crackers for a festival dedicated to all things cheese.

Cheese Fest attracted 1,700 people at Starworks Warehouse in Wolverhampton at the weekend.

From traditional cheeses to mac and cheese, halloumi fries and mozzarella sticks, visitors were

able to learn about all types of the dairy delight, as well as the best wines and beers to accompany it.

Organiser Ashley Ramian said: "If Wolverhampton is as good as it looks – which it is at the moment – then we will be coming back next year. People just love melted cheese. We wanted to

design something where people could come and have a drink. We wanted something different to the usual farmers' market."

Coronation Street star turned cheesemaker Sean Wilson was at the event, delighting the audience with gourmet tips. The 52-year-old plays Martin Platt in the soap.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Easter egg hunt at hospice base

A CHARITY Easter egg hunt will see children searching for more than 500 chocolate eggs.

The Mary Stevens Hospice hosts the Easter egg challenge at their Hagley Road HQ in Stourbridge as part of their annual fundraising event.

Hospice bosses are expecting a record number of eggs to be found on the day with donkey rides and an Easter market also taking place.

The event is free to attend with registration for the egg hunt at £5 per child. Doors open at 10.30am on March 31. To register visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/easter-egg-hunt-2018 online.

MP hosting free fair for the elderly

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood is hosting his third fair for older people tomorrow (Friday).

The free admission Older People's Information Fair is at Wordsley Community Centre, Wordsley Green, from 10am to 1pm. Among organisations due to attend the Conservative MP's event are Age UK, Beacon Centre for the Blind, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Severn Trent Water, Dudley Home Improvement Services, Dudley Winter Warmth Service, National Express, University of the Third Age and Maggie's Laughter Yoga.

Homes designed for the disabled

DEVELOPERS will soon start work on bringing an innovative new housing development of 18 apartments and two bungalows for disabled adults to life in the Black Country.

The new development on Shrubbery Avenue in Tipton has been specially designed for people with physical and learning disabilities. It is one of a number of schemes being delivered in the West Midlands by HBV, the specialist supported living developers. HBV is working with Sandwell Council and aims to have residents living in the development by 2019.

Dusty tribute is a 60s special at civic hall

DUSTY Springfield and other female stars from the golden age of pop music will be celebrated in a show at Brierley Hill Civic Hall tonight (Thursday).

The show, Dusty and the Shades of the 60s, is a tribute to the life of the London-born soul singer whose hits included I Only Want To Be With You and Son of a Preacher Man.

Tickets cost £17 (concessions £15). See www.bhllcivic.co.uk/whats-on/live-music-website.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Sporting ethics are not MPs' concerns

AS sporting events go, it is hard to think of anything more dreary than the Tour de France, a spectacle of unsmiling men in synthetic clothing using a slow, outdated form of transport. It's like a three-week episode of the new politically correct Top Gear, without Clarkson's wit.

That said, I can't help but feel sympathy for Sir Bradley Wiggins, who finds his reputation in tatters after a Department for Culture, Media and Sport select committee accused him and his team of "crossing an ethical line."

Now I have no idea whether Wiggins used nefarious means to win the 2012 Tour de France, but since when has it been the role of politicians to adjudicate on sporting conduct? Surely this is a matter for the cycling authorities.

What next? VAR replays being transmitted to Westminster? Parliamentary votes on LBW and penalty decisions? Then again, if somebody wants to make Ken Clarke and John Prescott run the line at the New Den, that's fine with me.

■ ■ ■

BESIDES, if politicians want to become embroiled in sport, there are more pressing issues.

Last week a man and his daughter were poisoned with nerve gas in Salisbury, and several innocent civilians, including a seriously ill policeman, are in hospital.

If – and it's still a big if – Russia is behind the attacks, our options are limited. Economic sanctions? Been there, done that. Military action? Out of the question. Send a few diplomats home? Putin would laugh up his sleeve.

One thing that would hurt Putin though, would be if his beloved World Cup was in jeopardy. Now if, as suggested, England dropped out, it might be perceived as an empty gesture. After all, our chances of winning are slim. But imagine if France, Germany, Italy, Holland and Belgium also joined the boycott as a show of European solidarity against tyranny. Yeah, right. They'd rather punish us over Brexit.

■ ■ ■

SO sad to hear about the death of Ken Dodd. One of the last of a dwindling breed, he saw his role as making us laugh. No smut, no politics, just good clean fun.

One of my favourite moments as a journalist was sitting with him backstage at Dudley Town Hall, where he fondly reminisced about his days as a young comedian, cutting his teeth at Dudley Hippodrome followed by some heady nights in his Glue Pot bar.

Sir Ken is no longer with us, and the Hippodrome won't be for much longer either. Sad days.

Government: It's everybody's fault but theirs



Donald Trump – European Union warning over threat of imposing tariffs



Max Mosley – morphing into Twister from Beeb's Lark Rise to Candleford?



Monty Don – 'seriously misquoted' over using fewer plastic products in our gardens

It all comes down to blame culture

HOW to be a government. 1) Allow the population to grow by 500,000 a year. 2) Blame local councils for not permitting enough houses. 3) Blame developers for not building enough houses. 4) Blame landowners for not releasing land for more houses. 5) Blame everybody but yourselves.

THE European Union warns that if Donald Trump imposes tariffs, Brussels may retaliate with tariffs on Levi jeans, Harley Davidson motorbikes and bourbon whiskey. The price of that mid-life crisis could go through the roof.

FROM the small ads: "Deep fryer for sale, excellent condition, no chips."

I KNEW this had been a long, miserable winter but it was only after putting my old boat on the lake this week that I realised how long. It was the first time I had sailed since October 12. We Brits spend half the year waiting for the other half and hoping it will be better.

I WROTE recently about Donald Trump's joke on "self-deprecating humour." A reader says surely this should be "humor." Not at all. Trump, being an American, said "humor" but I, being British, heard "humour." On my honor.

I AM at the age where blokes worry about prostate cancer. As well they might. Years of watching TV medical dramas has convinced most of us that the Big C follows a pattern. You get the symptoms, go for tests which confirm the GP's hunch, the clever young surgeon cuts out the offending tumour and you live happily ever after (unless the TV ratings are bad, in

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



which case they may bump you off). As a survey this week reveals, prostate cancer is very different.

WITH prostate cancer you may or may not develop symptoms. The only available test for detecting signs of prostate cancer is about as much use as tossing a coin. A follow-up biopsy may leave you impotent, incontinent or both. The cancer may kill you quickly or do nothing, and you die of old age. A serious prostate cancer can look benign and a benign cancer can appear serious. And sometimes surgery can release cancerous cells into the rest of your body. We need a better diagnostic process. So is there no hope? Actually, there is. This latest study followed 400,000 middle-aged men for a decade. And while routine PSA screening for prostate cancer appeared to save no lives, only three men in every 1,000 died of prostate cancer during the 10 years. Those are not bad odds. While there's no room for complacency about prostate cancer, the one thing this survey proves conclusively is that there's a lot of other stuff you can die of.

I SUSPECT Monty Don, the TV gardener, has been seriously misquoted. He wants us to use fewer plastic products in our gardens. This has been translated as a call to "get rid of" plastic tubs, pots, dibbers and so on. But it's getting rid of plastic that has caused the environmental

nightmare in the first place. Don't bin it. Keep the plastic you've got but don't buy any more.

INCIDENTALLY, I am down to my last 18 plastic straws from a box, purchased some years ago, which contained 225 and carries the message from Sainsbury's "We care about our quality and what you think." I wonder what they think I should do with my last 18 straws.

ACCORDING to my local council's latest report, "sport" is the second biggest item of its expenditure. It spends more on maintaining tennis courts and providing pitches where talented amateur footballers can scream obscenities at each other on Sunday mornings than it does on public safety, street cleaning, theatres and museums, and I dare say it's not alone. This country spends billions every year subsidising the entrenched and unchallenged notion that sport is A Good Thing which produces a fit and healthy nation that aims to win but is noble in defeat. Where, oh where, is the evidence?

IT was entirely right and proper that Members of Parliament, in the form of the The Digital, Culture, Media and Sport select committee, should be the ones to dish the dirt this week on drug taking among British cyclists. After all, it's obvious that MPs never take anything to improve their performance.

THE strain may be taking its toll on Max Mosley. Does anyone else think he's morphing into Twister (Karl Johnson) from the Beeb's Victorian drama, Lark Rise to Candleford?

TALKING POINT



Sometimes people are thankful for a moan

MY esteemed colleague last week wrote about the importance of saying thank you and I wholeheartedly agree with him on this. However, there are some occasions where I would be more tempted to say no thank you.

Unlike him I am not referring to the common courtesy thank yous when you hold the door open for someone, give them your seat on the train etc. They are always a must. I refer to service that you are less than happy with. Yes in any line of work it is lovely when you receive a phone call or letter expressing gratitude for what you have done but what if the opposite is the case?

I must admit I do have a reputation for complaining about things. Sometimes when we are out for a meal with friends I think they cringe. But if I ask for my steak medium rare that is how I want it, not done to a crisp. You are paying for the food and it should be what you ordered. Or if the food is not hot enough I send it back. I would not expect to eat it like that at home and certainly not when I am paying somebody else to provide it.

And actually the establishment should be grateful for my feedback as maybe the next time they will make sure they get it right for the customer.

It's the same with things bought in shops or online. If that product does not do what you think it should or does not look like it does on the internet site why shouldn't you take/send it back and complain? How will these businesses learn if they never have your opinion – good or bad.

And this can actually lead to a very positive experience for both sides. I recently had a problem – a scratch – with some furniture I ordered. Admittedly it was a small one which I could have covered up if necessary but I went on the online chat line and explained the situation and at no stage did they belittle my comment.

In fact they were grateful for the feedback and sorted out my complaint, turning a bad experience into a good one.

It meant that I would both use the service again and recommend it to friends. Word of mouth is so important for businesses. That is why so many send out feedback forms. You are positively encouraged to give your verdict – good or bad.

So don't be afraid to speak out. As long as it is constructive criticism or a genuine complaint it should be dealt with and hopefully then resolved.

To say thanks is great but there is nothing wrong with saying NO THANKS.

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Debating Corbyn's take on knife crime

LET us debate the wisdom of that bearded old sage, Jeremy Corbyn, regarding knife crime.

As ever we are treated to one of Jezza's gems. Here in the West Midlands, there have been 21 stabbings so far in 2018, of which five resulted in a murder charge.

While taking a stroll down Stourbridge High Street, Jezza imparted once more a few musings which show how astute he is at looking at a problem, analysing it and coming to a resolution.

"A mandatory jail sentence is not necessary. Community service and re-

storative justice can be a much more effective tool."

He had come to this conclusion because he once interviewed a woman who had been imprisoned three times for major offences.

Luckily for us all, instead of prison, when she came up for sentencing the fourth time, she was given community service. Lo and behold, she became a model citizen.

As I have in the past had community service yobs thrust upon me to do menial jobs, I'm a little confused.

It was round about the time that those orange tabards were dispensed

with due to them causing untold embarrassment to the wearers. The disadvantage of using these men was the fact that if they actually turned up on time, the amount of work done in a day might be an hour or so. Not good if you have deadline to meet.

Furthermore, the chaps in charge aren't say boo to them for fear of reprisals. Though in my case they did have spades, rakes, wheelbarrows etc, I certainly wouldn't want anyone willing to use a knife within 100 miles of a pick, a fork or pair of scissors.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE

Dudley

Devoid of compassion or wind-up?

I CANNOT decide if Stephen Fellows (Letters, March 1), is winding us up or if he is completely devoid of compassion and logic.

Those lovely old top shops disappeared because the likes of Mr Fellows stopped using them. That's business.

Those boarded-up premises are abandoned because the council focused attention on Merry Hill and The Waterfront as the prestigious way forward instead of exercising imaginative policies to encourage enterprise in the town centres around the borough.

Rubbish in the High Street has been dumped by its own worthy citizens.

Why this knee-jerk reaction to the homeless to move them on for another authority to deal with when the answer is right there. Unboard the shops and let the poor souls gather the dumped bedding and make some sort of refuge for themselves.

MARY PEARSON
Pedmore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Change in law over gun rights needed

THERE can be nothing worse than losing a loved one to a violent gun crime. America has in its constitution the right to bear arms. But you would think most Americans would have reached the conclusion that having this right has led to thousands of innocent people dying.

America needs to realise that allowing so many to be armed does not protect you but increases the chance of being killed. A change in the law to make it illegal to carry arms is needed. It will take years to get the guns off the streets but over time it will be successful.

JOHN GREEN
Sedgley

Use cash for Civic on the Hippodrome

WOLVERHAMPTON Council is committed to spending £36million to modernise the Civic/Wolverhampton Halls. Why not abandon that project and use the funds to refurbish Dudley Hippodrome?

The areas around the Hippodrome, the Black Country Museum and Canal Tunnels are becoming a worldwide heritage attraction area and the zoo also brings in tourists. The Hippodrome could be used for major exhibitions as well as the traditional concerts. The road connections and local parking are so much better than Wolverhampton. It could also help reverse the terminal decline of Dudley centre.

Wolverhampton would still have the Grand Theatre, art gallery and university. It is probably too much to hope that our politicians would be brave enough to consider such Black Country co-operation.

DAVID STEELE
Wolverhampton

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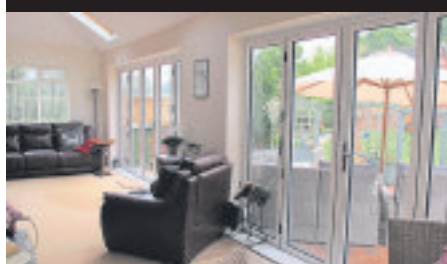
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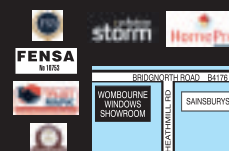
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Radzi and co step up for Sport Relief at park

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Blue Peter presenter Radzi Chinyanganya was in Baggeridge Country Park for the latest stop on his mammoth sporting challenge.

Radzi, who also recently among the BBC team presenting the Winter Olympics in South Korea, returned to his home patch with fellow presenter Lindsey Russell for their Sport Relief challenge.

Called Mile-a-Thon it will see them run 26 individual miles with 26 schools across the country in four days.

They were joined by youngsters from Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club at Baggeridge, near Sedgley.

Earlier in the day the pair did three laps of Molineux with pupils from Westcroft School and St Andrew's Primary School.

Healthy

The are hoping to achieve more than one million steps by asking children to complete their own mile by running, walking or riding and then recording it on the Blue Peter website.

All the steps will be added up and it will be revealed whether they achieved the aim at 5.30pm next Thursday, March 22, for Blue Peter's Sport Relief special on CBBC.

It is all to encourage school children to stay fit and health by getting into the habit of regularly walking a mile a day.

The challenge was due to end in Oxford where the team were to cross the finish line where Sir Roger Bannister, who died on March 3, broke the four-minute mile back in 1954.

Radzi, who has been part of the Blue Peter team since 2013, said: "This



Radzi Chinyanganya and Lindsey Russell at Baggeridge with Sam Thurstfield, Maisie Fletcher, Emma Seeney, Logan Shields and Ella Green



Kitted out for adventure high up in the trees at Baggeridge Country Park

challenge is not about us, it is about supporting a charity and getting people involved and active. We wanted to be part of Sport Relief because this challenge is all about the steps – so anyone can get involved.

"I did not like Cross Country running when I was at school but this is

a great challenge to get involved in as it is one mile and you can take it at your own pace and you can do it on a scooter or you can cycle.

"We will be completing 26.2 miles over the four days – a full marathon – visiting a number of schools along the way."

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Shear joy at stories by artist

Amblecote History Society

THERE was a good attendance for the visit of Geoff Tristram as guest speaker.

Geoff is an extremely talented artist and author, with many claims to fame. His talks included many hilarious anecdotes of his life. He was born in Quarry Bank and from a young age he had a talent for playing the clarinet. Then one day he picked up a multi-coloured pen, his destiny was then decided.

From there he went on to paint and draw many portraits, landscapes and caricatures, also designing many musical album covers, the most famous being UB40's Signing Off.

One very memorable moment in his life was when he was asked to paint a caricature of Newcastle and England striker Alan Shearer. Geoff needed to take a photograph of him and was trying to plan a meeting with Alan in Newcastle. Around that time Wolves were playing Newcastle and Geoff had a phone call from Alan's agent to say the footballer could go to Geoff's home in Stourbridge to get the photographs taken.

Not long after that, to Geoff's delight there was Alan Shearer standing on his doorstep! A kickaround in Geoff's back garden followed – to the amazement of all the neighbours looking over the garden fence. This was just one of many great stories. Also worth a mention is that is outstanding pictures that are used for the famous Ravensburger Jigsaws.

A reminder of how times have changed



Terry Church, flanked by Pauline Handley and Brenda Adkin

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

AT the February meeting co-chairman Pauline Handley welcomed 32 members and two visitors Una Tromans and Betty Ross for a three-course lunch, the AGM and to hear speaker Terry Church about his early memories of living in Wall Heath and Kingswinford.

Pauline was delighted to welcome volunteer Pauline Berrington on to the committee, but felt it was time for herself to step down due to on-going medical problems. She was presented with flowers as a thank you for her efforts.

Retiring after three years as president, Brenda Adkin was congratulated and also given flowers. Long-standing and loyal member Bessie Waters accepted the presidency for the next three years. Ann Rogers will continue as chairman.

The speaker was a real tonic and had everyone reminiscing about how things used to be at school and in the home and of pubs, shops and library closures – a reminder of how life has changed.

Quiz night proves a lot of fun

CHAIRMAN Chris Holton presided over the February meeting at St Peter's Centre, Pedmore, and welcomed 30 guests.

She gave the minutes of December's meeting, which were approved and signed as a true record. Treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up-to-date financial report and secretary Jean Williams announced she was organising a visit to the Rose theatre in Kidderminster to see Neighbourhood Watch.

Guild member Jacqueline Hill had organ-

Grange E TWG

ised a quiz with a wide variety of questions and photographs. The evening was a lot of fun and each member taking part received a small prize. Thanks were given to Jacqueline for her hard work.

Refreshments were served and the raffle drawn with three lucky winners. The sales table for March will have an Easter theme.



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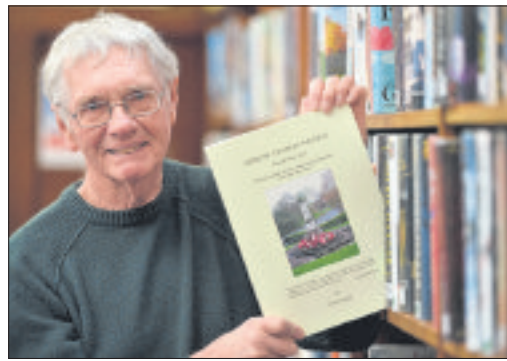
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Terry Evans has focused on experiences of Cradley servicemen

Cradley's memorial inspired Second World War book

A BLACK Country historian has had a book published about armed forces personnel from Cradley who fought in the Second World War.

Author Terry Evans has focused on the impact of the war on local people. It comes just over four years after a book by Mr Evans about Cradley's finest during the First World War.

Some of Cradley's Finest - World War Two tells the tales of people connected to the area, those who

lost their lives in the conflict and those who survived.

The book has been published by Midland Film And Art, based in Cradley, and will be distributed by the Cradley Then and Now history group.

Retired metallurgist Mr Evans, aged 73, said: "Originally the idea came when I was looking at the Cradley war memorial. I was just looking at the names on there and then I started to research it.

"It was just a hobby to start with but when I retired I decided to put it into a book. That's when I got into it properly.

Mr Evans, who grew up in Cradley but now lives in Halesowen, added: "It is the stories of men with Cradley connections who fought in the war, some named on the war memorial and some not. The war memorial was the catalyst but there are others who need to be remembered as well."

Failing Carillion paid consultants £6.4m

COLLAPSED construction and outsourcing group Carillion paid £6.4 million to advisers the day before pleading with the Government for an emergency loan of £10m.

The Wolverhampton-based business made the payments on January 12, figures from the Official Receiver have revealed. The following day Carillion chairman Philip Green wrote to the Cabinet Office warning the company would fall into insolvency if it could not secure a bail-out. The Government refused on January 14 and Carillion applied for liquidation the next day. Payments included £2.5m to accounting firm Ernst and Young, £1.2m to law firm Slaughter and May, £1m to FTI Consulting.

Chairman of the House of Commons business select committee Rachel Reeves MP said Carillion's board 'ensured that the costs of failure would be picked up by the taxpayer'.

Drug dealer took wrong turn straight to the police

Report by John Scott

ERRATIC driving in Dudley put a drug dealer on the road to a six year prison sentence.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Theodore Harris cut a corner at speed and made a wrong turn into a cul-de-sac where two police officers were making inquiries into an unrelated matter.

A resident told them: 'That car does not belong around here.' The officers went to investigate and saw a throwing axe lying on the front passenger seat.

Mr Antoine Muller, prosecuting, said this prompted a detailed search of the hire car that unearthed more than £2,000 worth of high purity cocaine, cannabis and heroin. A stab proof vest and phones used for drug dealing were also found. Harris was arrested in The Willows, Netherton on November 8.

Bail

This was seven months after he had been freed on bail pending further inquiries after being stopped at the wheel of another hire car in Weymouth, Dorset. Then the 28-year-old, of no fixed address, had been travelling to Dorchester with another second stab proof vest in the boot. He also had wraps of crack cocaine hidden in his sock and £1,360 cash in his pockets.

Harris had been questioned and released on bail on February 12, the court was told.

The father-of-two was a crack addict with a string of drug offences but had not been accused of dealing before his most recent crimes, said Mr Muller.

Judge Dean Kershaw told the defendant: "No street dealer sells drugs of this purity. You were closer than most to the source of the cocaine.

"The fact you had stab proof vests is indicative of the dangerous nature of what you were up to. Yours was a significant role."

Harris, whose children are one and two-years-old, pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine with intent to supply in Weymouth on January 27 last year and admitted possessing crack, heroin and cannabis with intent to supply in Netherton on November 8.

Hero's widow is hit by lighter at match

The widow of West Bromwich Albion legend Jeff Astle has said she will never attend another match after being hit by a cigarette lighter during ugly scenes at Saturday's clash with Leicester City at the Hawthorns.

Laraine Astle was not hurt but saw a young boy and a woman injured by missiles during the match, which Albion lost 4-1. It was the first home game Mrs Astle had attended since Astle Day almost three years ago.

She said: "It was awful. I have never seen such venom, nor have I felt so frightened at a game in the 54 years I have followed the Albion.

"I felt like a sitting duck. The young woman sitting behind me was struck by a coin that missed her eye by fractions of an inch. It could have blinded her.

"The little lad sitting near me was hit by the cigarette lighter which then struck me on the shoulder before bouncing onto the hand of my daughter Claire. "The way I feel now I never want to go to another game of football."

Five arrests were made and police investigations continue.

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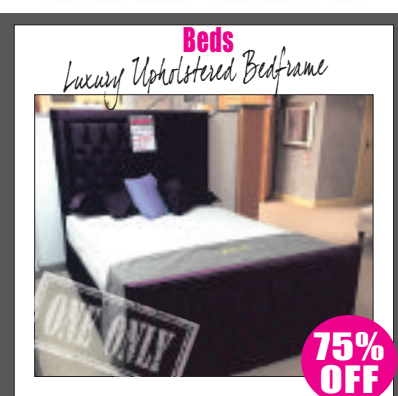
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The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none. More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

The company's showroom at its base is open



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Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes

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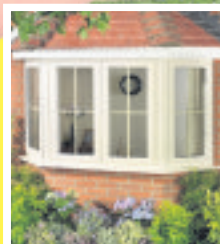
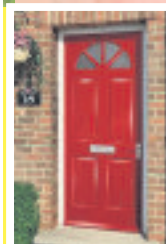
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Historic 18th century church is to be restored to glory

AN historic church in Dudley will undergo a £280,000 revamp.

Bottom Church on Castle Street, which is officially known as St Edmund King and Martyr, will have its tower repaired and a new kitchen and toilet installed.

The church site dates back to 1190 but the previous church was demolished after the Civil War and the current building was built in 1724 and is currently listed on the Historic England 'at risk register'.

The project is being funded largely by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), while The Wolfson Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation

have also contributed to the cost of restoration.

Church treasurer Jon Harcourt said: "We're delighted that after a great deal of hard work, our lovely church will be restored to its former glory. It has been on Heritage England's 'at risk register' for some time now due to the poor state of the tower roof, damaged stonework, brickwork and failed pointing.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for repairs to be made and for the community to get involved in the church to help provide a place where the history of this part of Dudley can be enjoyed."



Supporters of Dudley's historic Bottom Church celebrate repairs and restoration at the leaky building

50,000 seat stadium goal for Wolves boss

WOLVES chairman Jeff Shi has revealed his dream for a 50,000 capacity stadium at Molineux.

A stadium redevelopment had been on hold since 2012 when Wolves were relegated from the Premier League.

Ambitious owners Fosun are planning to expand Molineux if and when the team is established in the top flight.

"Let's try to get to 50,000 as soon as possible," Mr Shi said. "Everyone wants to have a big stadium. It's a step-by-step process and only when we build a strong team and can compete comfortably in the Premier League is the time to expand the stadium."

He said managing director Laurie Dalrymple had said the maximum capacity would be 50,000.

"I even asked him can we have a bigger one like Real Madrid's," he said. "But it's hard because the position of the stadium, the university is behind us. Expansion will be step by step."

Ketley Hill brings total new homes up to 200

TENANTS are moving into the latest homes to be built as part of Dudley Council's commitment to build hundreds of new council homes.

Nearly eight years ago Dudley Council embarked on a project to build new council homes across the borough, with a further commitment in 2014 to build hundreds of homes within a five year period.

The completion of its latest development on Ketley Hill Road has seen the council reach a total of more than 200 completions since the project began.

The Ketley Hill scheme is a development of 20 homes. It includes a mix of two, three and four bedroom houses and is the first scheme to include a number of two bedroom dormer bungalows.

Brownfield

The scheme cost in the region of £2.8 million. It has been funded in part by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal to support landowners and developers transform brownfield sites into new communities fit for 21st century living.

Councillor Laura Taylor, cabinet member for housing, said: "With the completion of this latest development we have now built more than 200 new council homes, which is fantastic news for the borough.

"We have demands for all kinds of flats, houses and bungalows but it's great to see this development offer something a little different. This is the first time we've been able to build dormer bungalows and they are a valued addition to our stock, offering flexible and modern living for tenants.

"Our ambition to build council houses doesn't stop here. We remain committed



Councillor Laura Taylor

to building on our successes, with many new council homes due to be built over coming months."

Dr Chris Handy, Black Country LEP Board Member, said: "Funding via the Black Country LEP has enabled investment in new housing and is important part in our transformational journey in the Black Country."

"This project is an important example of councils building again, which is great news. We need our local authorities to build homes as well as other developers if we are to go to build the homes we need for the future."

The homes have been built by local developer Jesup Brothers

Other recent new build schemes are at Davies Avenue, Marley Road, Mars Close and Leabank Road.

Photographer talks

A CAMERA club is hosting photographer Rosie Hardy for a talk next month. The fashion, portrait and art photographer will be giving a talk entitled 365 Days of Creativity at Hagley Camera Club on April 10 at 8.30pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wordsley. Entry is open to anyone and tickets are £9 in advance or £10 on the door. All proceeds to the Tim Bacon Foundation supporting cancer charities. See www.hagleycameraclub.co.uk website.

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Concert marks century since end of the First World War

Dudley Council and Dudley Zoological Gardens have teamed up to host a fantastic day of entertainment to celebrate the legend of St George on Sunday, April 22.

History talks and ghost tours will be taking place throughout the afternoon and refreshments will be available from the Queen Mary restaurant.

Friends have meeting date

The group will be meeting at The White House, Ednam Road, on Thursday, March 29 at 7.30 pm when Colin Knipe will be the speaker.

The annual general meeting date is April 26 with the meeting taking place in the Undercroft at the castle.

Taking works composed in the name of peace, Dudley Town Hall is joining forces with Gig Caritas to stage a 1918 Memorial Concert at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday, March 24. The main work will be Karl Jenkins' hugely popular *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*.

The concert will feature the 70-strong Restoration Chorus, 60 players from Stourbridge Chamber Orchestra as well as Third From The Right Productions providing readings. It will also feature guest soprano soloist Louise Maguire, who will be coming back to her home region from Reims in France where she now lives and performs.

Mayor of Dudley Councilor Dave Tyler said: "I'm really looking forward to attending this event. It's so important for us to remember those who gave their lives on the fields of battle and this promises to be a poignant and memorable evening."

Musical director will be Stourbridge-based Keith Horsfall, with the evening

Keith Horsfall, musical director for Gig Caritas, said: "Karl Jenkins' magnificent work *The Armed Man* is a wonderfully approachable but intensely moving musical plea for the cause of peace. This provides an opportunity to have an immensely enjoyable evening whilst at the same time remembering those who gave their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we have today."

Tickets cost £12 plus booking fees, available by calling (01384) 812812 or online at www.boroughhalls.co.uk. It starts 7.30pm.



Student Luci Gualano prepares to go on stage in the show Thoroughly Modern Millie

Thoroughly
successful
at college

TALENTED students brought the roaring 1920s to life as audiences packed Dudley College theatre to see them perform musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

More than 35 musical theatre and technical theatre students performed the show over three nights, to a total audience of around 400.

Curriculum leader for performing arts, Greg Burrows, said: "It went brilliantly, the performances were excellent. The feedback was very positive. We wanted to challenge our tech students and they lived up to it. They were brilliant. We always choose popular award-winning shows that suit our students."

Students from various disciplines helped, such as graphics students designing posters and media students filmed the show.

All systems go for light rail centre

PLANS for a light rail innovation centre near Castle Hill have been given the go-ahead by council bosses.

The centre, earmarked for land near Tipton Road, will feature a test track for lightweight rail vehicles. It is hoped it will provide a major jobs boost.

It will also have an access road, car parking and a footbridge linking the building to Station Road and Tipton Road. Dudley's planning committee have rubber-stamped the plans.

A council report said: "The innovation centre comprises workshops and laboratories, teaching facilities and public exhibition spaces. There is also a requirement for a large train hall for two rail tracks running parallel from an external marshalling yard, connected to the test track."

JB's reunion is a sell out

A REUNION for people who used to attend concerts at Dudley town centre rock club JB's has sold out.

The over-18s event celebrating the club's glory days of the 1980s and 90s is taking place on Saturday, April 21 at Brierley Hill Civic Hall. The evening will recreate a Friday night at JB's in 1989 with bands and a DJ. Funds raised will contribute towards creating musical opportunities for young people.

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Orchestra tunes up to play for women's charity



Alan Blower, John Cartwright, Barry Wheeler, Deborah Slater and Julie Billingham ahead of Halesowen Orchestra's fundraiser **CLASSICAL** music from three famous composers will be performed at a fundraiser on Saturday

Halesowen Orchestra will be playing Felix Mendelssohn's Fingals Cave, Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No 7 and Maria von Weber's Bassoon Concerto.

The concert will take place at Halesowen's Cornbow Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

The event will raise money for Black Country Women's Aid, an independent charity which supports survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence in the West Midlands.

Supported

Black Country Women's Aid, formerly known as Sandwell Women's Aid, has been running for more than 30 years and has supported more than 8,000 people.

The concert is being held in asso-

ciation with Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary club. A spokesman for the orchestra, which has been running for more than 30 years, said: "As 2018 is the year of the bassoon, we are delighted to have talented bassoon player Richard Tattam as our soloist."

Halesowen Orchestra, boasts about 40 regular players serving Halesowen and the west of Birmingham.

Tickets for this month's Beethoven's Seventh concert are priced at £10, available at the door or by calling 0121 550 0956.

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Teen launched 'sickening' street attack

A 16-YEAR-OLD youth who launched a brutal attack on another young man when two rival gangs clashed in the early hours of the morning in Stourbridge has been locked up for two-and-a-half years.

The victim was punched and kicked and the beating continued as he lay unconscious in the street, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He suffered a fractured cheek bone, broken tooth, fractures of the nose and knuckle together with haemorrhaging to an eye.

The injured party and his friends were heading for a Stourbridge nightclub on January 7 last year celebrating the fact his partner was expecting their first child, explained Mr Nicholas Tatlow, prosecuting.

After leaving the taxi they were confronted in the town centre by another group which included the defendant, from Halesowen, and another man who both targeted the victim.

The attackers wrongly believed the group had been involved in an earlier incident in which one of their friends had been hurt.

The youth pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm with intent and was ordered to be detained in a Young Offenders Institution.

Judge Michael Challinor told him: "This was a sustained and sickening assault."

Leader takes questions in Facebook interview

DUDLEY Council leader Patrick Harley will be holding a live broadcast on social media today (Thursday) taking questions from the public.

Councillor Harley will be appearing in the Facebook Live from 6pm to 7pm. He will be interviewed by deputy leader Councillor David Vickers.

Facebook-users will be able to type their questions into a comments box.

New Look closure of 60 stores puts hundreds of jobs at risk

Failings at hospital contributed to death

NEGLECT at Sandwell General Hospital contributed to the death of a pensioner from Rowley Regis.

Frank Hayward 'may not have died' if hospital staff had spotted the 83-year-old was suffering a bleed to the brain after a fall. Coroner Mr Zafar Siddique on Friday recorded a conclusion of accidental death, contributed to by neglect.

He said there were 'failures' when staff did not diagnose his bleed following a CT scan and a 'missed opportunity' to identify the former sheet metal worker had fractured his neck.

Mr Hayward's health deteriorated during his stay, contracting norovirus and falling from his bed. He died before his family, who had been warned to stay away after an outbreak of the infection, got to the hospital on December 10.

Inadequate

The coroner added: "There were a catalogue of issues. The systems in place were inadequate at the time."

Chief Nurse Elaine Newell said: "We are very sorry for the death of Frank Hayward and would like to offer our deepest sympathies to his family and friends."

"We recognise that we missed opportunities to make Frank more comfortable whilst he was in hospital, and should have identified the extent of his injury whilst he was in our emergency department."

"We are adding to the documentation for the management of head injuries to ensure all necessary tests are done as a matter of urgency, and are sharing the learning from his experience with colleagues across the trust."



Frank Hayward's death in hospital may have been preventable

NEARLY 1,000 shop workers face the axe after fashion chain New Look revealed plans to shut 60 stores as part of a rescue plan.

It will also see the rent it pays slashed at nearly 400 more shops nationwide.

It is the latest victim of the slowdown on the high street that has already seen Toys R Us and Maplin collapse into administration, while a string of restaurant chains have announced closures.

With less money being spent on the high street New Look is having a tough time fending off cheaper rivals like Primark and the big supermarkets, as well as online budget fashion stores like Asos.

Primark is doing particularly well and is opening its biggest-ever UK store at Birmingham's Pavilions shopping centre later this year.

Struggled

But New Look has struggled amid a "challenged trading performance and a difficult retail environment" and has put together a rescue deal that will see it close 60 stores, including its men's shop at Merry Hill, only opened two years ago and one of the first of its new menswear outlets.

It has also secured rent cuts at 393 of its remaining 533 UK shops - about two thirds - which will almost certainly include some of its local stores at Wolverhampton's Mander Centre, Walsall, Cannock, West Bromwich, Dudley High Street and Halesowen, as well as its womenswear shop at Merry Hill and its two stores in Stafford.

The rescue deal is called a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) and New Look says all the stores will remain open until its creditors - banks, suppliers and landlords - vote on the proposal on March 21.

Sporting club raises £87k for charities

A SPORTING club donated a record amount of more than £87,000 to good causes and charities in 2017.

Jon Bellfield has become president of Pedmore Sporting Club after two years as chairman. He has been replaced in that role by Adrian Grainger.

Mr Bellfield, executive chairman of property developers and investors Barberry Group, said 2017 had been a record fundraising year for Pedmore Sporting Club with a total of £87,914.

A summer ball raised more than £20,000, a celebrity lunch with former boxing world champion John Conteh collected more than £2,500, while a dinner raised almost £2,700.

Donations include £10,000 to Acorns Hospice, £5,000 to Meningitis Research, £3,480 to Help for Heroes, and £16,000 to Debbie Drew, who was brain damaged when helping to rescue a boy from drowning.

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College turning dreams into reality

Commercial feature

Thinking about the future and seeing yourself in the career of your choice can seem like a distant dream while you are still concentrating on your GCSEs but visiting Halesowen College and talking to friendly and informative staff can turn your dream into a reality.

Come along to the open day on Saturday, March 17, between 10am – 2pm to discover how the college can help you take your own personal route to success.

Curriculum staff will be available to guide would-be students in the right direction and you can sign up on the day to secure your place for September.

A spokesman said: "By making Halesowen College your number one choice, you will be able to choose from the region's biggest range of courses, at all levels and an ability to combine subjects will help you to tailor a programme that best suits you.

"Whether you have your sights on university, a vocational qualification or an apprenticeship, our highly professional staff will be available to give you advice and guidance and help with every stage of the decision-making process.

"Achievement levels for Halesowen College students are excellent and progression to further and higher education and employment is outstanding. The college is number two in the UK for successful student progression. This year, 98 per cent of students achieved an A-level pass and 31 per cent attained high grades A*, A or B. 32 subjects achieved an outstanding 100 per cent pass rate!

"Vocational results were equally impressive, with 80 per cent of students gaining Triple Distinction Star grades in their Level 3



Students are at the heart of everything they do at Halesowen College and staff want to support them throughout their Halesowen experience

Extended Diplomas. As a result, over 750 Halesowen students have progressed to university this autumn."

Apprenticeships are also growing in popularity and Halesowen College offers an exciting range of opportunities for you to get the qualifications that employers are looking for, while earning a wage. Apprentices are highly likely to secure permanent employment

at the end of their programme – 93.7 per cent of Halesowen Apprentices who completed their apprenticeship in 2016/17 progressed to full-time employment.

Visitors to the college's open day will have the opportunity to see for themselves the fantastic facilities students enjoy in a modern and easily accessible campus. Halesowen College is one of the best equipped colleges in the region.

On March 17, potential students can take advantage of applying for the course of their choice and securing an offer of a place, within minutes.

The spokesman added: "Our students are at the heart of everything we do and we want to support them throughout their Halesowen experience. Students can access support from their personal coach and learning support

staff. Financial Assistance is also available and nine out of 10 of our current students travel to Halesowen completely free of charge on college buses, which cover routes right across the region.

"Make Halesowen College your number one choice. Come to our Open Day, meet staff and students, secure your place and see yourself as having the successful future you deserve."



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Based in Stourbridge, the thriving family owned company aims to put the customer first at all times by offering executive coach hire combined with a diverse range of day tours, weekend breaks and four to eight-day holidays throughout the UK. Many of the hotels used by Greenline are also family-owned and run.

Greenline director/owner Andy Phillips is assisted by wife Nikki, brother Simon, niece Amy, and 10 other trusted members of staff to complete a happy and efficient team.

Experience

Andy has many years' experience within the sector having previously worked for a well known Blackheath coach company until their retirement.

Andy said: "After that company ended, I used to see lots of old customers and they'd always comment on how much they missed their day trips and holidays so that inspired me to start our own company.

"I'm delighted to say we get lots of word of mouth recommendations and repeat bookings. Our personal and friendly service combined with our experienced of ce staff, professional drivers and couriers ensure that our customers' day tours and holidays are always pleasurable and memorable.

"We treat our customers as a name, not a number, and regard them as part of our Greenline family. They receive free drinks,



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biscuits and treats on all holidays served by our friendly and helpful on-board couriers."

Greenline's smart executive coaches are modern 16 to 53-seater executive models with air suspension, toilets, air conditioning and drink-making facilities. Holidays are being offered throughout the year including tours to

Torquay, Weymouth, Sidmouth, Scotland, Isle of Wight, and Scarborough. The company has invested over £800,000 in its fleet over the last 18 months and took delivery of a 49 seater luxury top of the range Mercedes coach this week to compliment the other vehicles currently in its fleet to help meet demands for

the great Greenline Holidays and day tours they have on offer.

Andy added: "Everyone at Greenline Coaches has a big heart coupled with a huge passion to succeed in what we enjoy doing most in life, which is providing fun, friendship and laughter in the holidays and day trips we provide for our customers. We would like to



49 luxurious seats



Group returning from one of our many holidays

thank all of our customers for supporting us on our journey over the past eight years and look forward to welcoming them, with new customers, on board in the future."

For the full 2018 programme of day tours and holidays and details of how to book call 01384 444464 or 01384 444161 or visit www.greenlinecoaches.com

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| TORQUAY NETHWAY HOTEL Monday 19th - Friday 23rd March 2018 5 Days | \$199 | MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th May 2018 2 Days | \$79 | PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE Saturday 11th - Saturday 18th August 2018 8 Days | \$379 | LONDON - 5 STAR WALDORF HOTEL***** Treat Yourself! Sunday 28th - Monday 29 October 2018 2 Days | \$119 |
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| BOGNOR REGIS - ROYAL NORFOLK HOTEL Monday 26 - Friday 30th March 2018 5 Days | SOLD OUT \$225 | TORQUAY - HOWDEN COURT HOTEL Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018 5 Days | \$259 | TENBY - CLARENCE HOUSE HOTEL Sunday 26th - Thursday 30th August 2018 5 Days | \$309 | TORQUAY - HOWDEN COURT HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel With a Halloween Twist Monday 29th Oct - Friday 2nd Nov 2018 5 Days | \$269 |
| PORTCAWL - SEABANK HOTEL Easter Friday 30th March - Monday 2nd April 2018 4 Days | \$209 | SETTLE TO CARLISLE RAILWAY - AUCKLAND HOTEL Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd June 2018 3 Days | SOLD OUT \$149 | SETTLE TO CARLISLE RAILWAY - AUCKLAND HOTEL Friday 31st August - Sunday 2nd Sept 2018 3 Days | \$149 | TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th Nov 2018 3 Days | \$119 |
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| WEEKEND MYSTERY - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL Saturday 21st - Sunday 22nd April 2018 2 Days | SOLD OUT \$79 | SIDMOUTH - THE BEDFORD HOTEL Monday 18th - Friday 22nd June 2018 5 Days | SOLD OUT \$349 | HAYLING ISLAND - MILL RYTHE HOLIDAY VILLAGE Monday 10th - Friday 14th Sept 2018 5 Days | \$239 | MYSTERY TURKEY & TINSEL - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel Friday 16th - Monday 19th Nov 2018 4 Days | \$159 |
| TENBY - CLARENCE HOUSE HOTEL Monday 23rd - Friday 27th April 2018 5 Days | SOLD OUT \$269 | ISLE OF WIGHT - THE TROUVILLE HOTEL, SANDOWN Monday 18th - Saturday 23rd June 2018 6 Days | SOLD OUT \$359 | WEYMOUTH - FAIRHAVEN HOTEL Monday 17th - Friday 21st Sept 2018 5 Days | \$309 | TENBY - CLARENCE HOUSE HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel Monday 19th - Friday 23rd Nov 2018 5 Days | \$279 |
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| PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE Monday 30th April - Friday 4th May 2018 5 Days | SOLD OUT \$235 | BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER Sunday 23th - Wednesday 27th June 2018 5 Days | \$269 | MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL Friday 21st - Monday 24th Sept 2018 4 Days | \$199 | PORTHCAWL - SEABANK HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel Monday 26th - Friday 30th Nov 2018 5 Days | SOLD OUT \$239 |
| BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER Friday 4th - Sunday 6th May 2018 3 Days | \$125 | EASTBOURNE - HADDON HALL Saturday 30th June - Saturday 7th July 2018 8 Days | SOLD OUT \$439 | TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL Monday 24th - Friday 28th Sept 2018 5 Days | \$245 | GREAT YARMOUTH - NEW BEACH HOTEL Thurstford Spectacular Friday 30th November - Monday 3rd Dec 2018 4 Days | \$259 |
| LLANDUDNO - QUEENS HOTEL Monday 7th - Friday 11th May 2018 5 Days | \$309 | SCARBOROUGH - CUMBERLAND HOTEL NEW Wednesday 4th - Sunday 8th July 2018 5 Days | \$275 | MORECAMBE - CARLISLE/SETTLE RAILWAY & SCOTISH BORDERS AUCKLAND HOTEL Monday 24th - Friday 28th Sept 2018 5 Days | \$289 | CROMER - HOTEL DE PARIS Thurstford Spectacular Friday 7th - Monday 10th Dec 2018 4 Days | \$259 |
| GREAT YARMOUTH - NEW BEACH HOTEL Wednesday 9th - Sunday 13th May 2018 5 Days | \$235 | WARNERS ALVASTON HALL HOTEL NEW Monday 9th - Friday 13th July 2018 5 Days | \$375 | CRICCIETH - GEORGE IV HOTEL Monday 1st - Friday 5th October 2018 5 Days | \$219 | LONDON - 5 STAR WALDPORF HOTEL ***** Christmas Shopping Sunday 16th - Monday 17th Dec 2018 2 Days | \$119 |
| CROMER - HOTEL DE PARIS NEW Sunday 13th - Saturday 19th May 2018 7 Days | \$365 | WEYMOUTH - FAIRHAVEN HOTEL Monday 9th - Friday 13th July 2018 5 Days | \$309 | MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL Saturday 6th - Sunday 7th October 2018 2 Days | \$79 | PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE Christmas Sunday 23rd - Thursday 27th Dec 2018 5 Days | SOLD OUT \$420 |
| MORECAMBE LAKES & DALES - AUCKLAND HOTEL Monday 14th - Friday 18th May 2018 5 Days | SOLD OUT \$259 | TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL Motown Weekend Friday 13th - Sunday 15th July 2018 3 Days | SOLD OUT \$119 | SCOTLAND DUNOON - SELBOURNE HOTEL NEW Sunday 7th - Saturday 13th October 2018 7 Days | \$279 | TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL Christmas Sunday 23rd - Thursday 27th Dec 2018 5 Days | \$429 |
| | | SKEGNESS - SAVOY HOTEL Monday 16th - Friday 20th July 2018 5 Days | \$299 | WEYMOUTH - NORFOLK HOTEL NEW Friday 12th - Monday 15th October 2018 4 Days | \$139 | BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER Twixmas Thursday 27th - Sunday 30th Dec 2018 4 Days | \$179 |
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Souvenir programme from the 1958 tour



The Gaumont where Buddy Holly performed



Buddy Holly on stage at Birmingham Town Hall on March 10, 1958

Oh Boy! That'll be the day that fans remember

WHEN Buddy Holly performed at The Gaumont Cinema in Wolverhampton 60 years ago his career was on the crest of a wave.

Excited fans turned out to see the new American rock 'n' roll phenomenon, still only 21, on his first – and as it tragically turned out, his last – UK tour which took in the city venue.

His performances wowed devotees. In the audience at Birmingham Town Hall three nights afterwards was 12-year-old John Lodge, who later said: "Buddy Holly was the person who made me understand that I could be a musician. He was incredible."

The following decade Lodge rose to fame as bass player with The Moody Blues along with fellow Holly fan Justin Hayward.

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the star's visit, tribute act Buddy Holly and the Crickets will perform with the English Rock and

MEMORY LANE

Report by Marion Brennan

Roll Orchestra at 22 venues across the UK – including the Wolverhampton gig – the exact date Holly himself played six decades ago.

Organisers tried to book the same venues on the same dates but the Gaumont, on the corner of Snow Hill and St George's Parade, was knocked down in 1973.

Meters

The site is now occupied by a Wilkinson's store, so instead the gig was staged last week at the Grand Theatre. There are no known pictures of Holly's visit to Wolverhampton and few accounts of his two shows that day.

But it is known the singer and his band, bassist Joe Maudlin and drummer Jerry Allison, stayed at the Victoria Hotel, now the Britannia, next to the Grand after their second performance.

Maudlin recalled the bedrooms in the Victoria Hotel were large with high ceilings, which meant they were quite cold. He said: "We were continually putting coins into the gas meters for the fires."

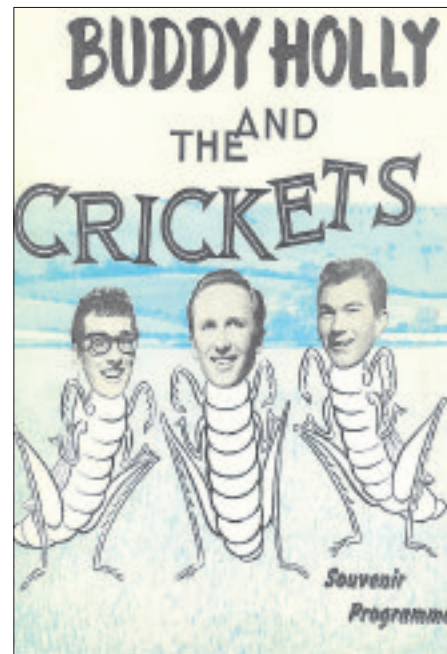
The visit was researched 10 years ago by Walsall historian Ian Payne on the 50th anniversary of the legend's performance in the town. It led to the book, *The Day that Buddy Came to Town*, which is now available in the Wolverhampton Archives.

Mr Payne said: "I wanted to make a lasting tribute, partly because my parents were keen Buddy Holly fans and partly after being inspired by a musical tribute to him several years ago."

"I'm delighted the 60th anniversary is being marked in this way and it's poignant they are keeping to the exact dates he performed on his tour."

"He made a mark on this region and it's clear his fans loved him."

A programme from the 1958 tour reveals Holly's appearance was part of a variety-style show compered by a young Des O'Connor.



Souvenir programme from the 1958 tour

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They're still just like nothing on Earth

Punk icons The Stranglers are back on the road following the sell-out success of last year's Black and White Tour. They are taking their Classic Collection around the UK, to coincide with the planned re-release of the entire Stranglers studio album catalogue from 1977-82.

Fans can look forward to a slew of greatest hits when the band headline Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday, March 17. It's a show that The Stranglers are also looking forward to.

Bassist Jean-Jacques Burnel says: "We've had some amazing times in the Black Country and Birmingham and around and about. We always have a great time when we're on the road and it's always sold out when we play in Brum. Our drummer, Jim, lives in that neck of the woods.

"We've got a very loyal audience but there's also a sense of renewal of the audience. People who've grown up with us and remember times past are still there.

"They remember the problems of us being a young punk band. It seems to be that for some reason a lot of teenagers are also starting to check us out over the past 10 years. You know, with the last three albums, people have really picked up on us again.

"Also, all the bad press that we had all those years ago seems to be a badge of honour because everything is so cynical and phoney these days. All the bad times are now a badge of honour. It's funny. We were the threat to western civilisation and morality and now we're seen as a healthy thing because the music scene is all so sterile."

Drawing from an expansive and impressive catalogue that spans some 40 years, The Stranglers will enthral audiences with an exciting mix of material, all bearing the distinctive signature style of this most enduring of British bands; driving rhythms, anthemic melodies, quirky time signatures and occasional dark humour, held together by those trademark rumbling bass lines and swirling keyboards.

WAVE

The Stranglers are riding high on the crest of a resurgent wave of popularity. They continue to out-rock many on the live circuit, including much younger bands, and their existing large and loyal fan base has swelled in recent years as new converts join the ranks.

With record-breaking, sell-out shows and festival appearances throughout the UK and the rest of the world, public demand to hear and see the group has never been so high; true testament to their considerable musical talent and the enduring quality of their songs.

JJ says it's been a struggle and they're thrilled to be winning the war.

"Well, we've been used to wars from day one. We didn't have a ready-made audience in the very early days. Even when we were playing pubs we were having confrontations with the landlord calling the police to pull the plug.

"In the very early days, people were also getting offended by what we were playing. We had people try to get on stage and whack us. We had, once, an agent who booked us for one show. They booked us for a Young Conservatives night in Purley, in South London.

"We were dressed in rags and tatters and there were all these people in smoking jackets and

No more heroes – The Stranglers are heading to Birmingham



suits and bow ties. It was evidently obvious that we weren't going to get on with each other.

"Jet went on stage and said you're not going to like us and there was a bit of language. So one guy came up on stage with a bow tie but we kicked him off stage and 400 people left the hall, leaving five who thought we were brilliant. I think we did play for the five to get our fee."

JJ is pleased that the band's recorded output from an imperious late 1970s and early 1980s is being re-aired.

"It was a very intense and fast period from having overnight been the pariahs and then breaking all kinds of records and selling records and having an audience who wanted to see us rather than murder us. It was very creative for us back then. We were just writing all the time.

"There was pent up frustration

The bad press that we had all those years ago is a badge of honour

and energy and we wanted to explore our potential. We weren't satisfied. Suddenly we had a bit of a hit, we wanted to go further. We wanted to see what we could as artists, what we could do. As our experiences expanded and our horizon, so did our attempts to try and improve.

"In the first 18 months we had three albums out, all top three. The first three years were really slow and doubts crept into our mind about doing the right thing. Then things happened suddenly but overnight it changed. We were living off Paxo sage and onion stuffing when no girlfriend meant no food or drink."

Remarkably, the band are more popular than ever. And they have offers to tour the world. The band pick and choose what they want to do – turning down things that are too much bother.

"We have to decide whether we want to go somewhere. Every time we turn down the USA they double the offer. There are a few places we're not too keen on going to. The Americans want you to queue up for the American embassy and be interrogated about why we want to go there. You can't make a joke. So we don't accept the offers."

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Edgelarks Photo: Elly Lucas



Life on the Edge with one of the UK's top folk duos

One of Britain's leading folk music duos are performing at a village church on the edge of the Black Country this weekend.

Edgelarks, who are Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin, have just received their third nomination in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. They won the top duo award in 2014 and were nominated again in 2016.

The pair's new project takes the roots of their previous work – from the traditional musics of the British Isles to Indian classical slide guitar and Phillip's stomping beatbox harmonica – and adds a strong stem of original writing.

Edgelarks, which was one of MOJO's top ten folk albums of 2017, is Phillip and Hannah's most innovative work to date. As well as being their fourth

studio album, it also marks the genesis of a brand new band name.

From recording their first album, *Singing the Bones*, at home in their living room in the dead of night, they have gone on to produce three more records – *Mynd*, *Live in Calstock and Watershed* – each time refining the process and honing their production skills.

Edgelarks appropriately will be performing near Kinver Edge, at St Peter's Church in Kinver, on Saturday at 8pm. Tickets cost £13. See www.edgelarks.co.uk or call 07503 191825 for details.

But fans of Irish folk will no doubt be at Birmingham Town Hall that night for *The Dublin Legends* – Sean Cannon, Eamonn Campbell, Paul Watchorn and Gerry O'Connor – playing favourites by The Dubliners.

Crying for Evita as blockbuster returns



Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita* is thrilling audiences once again across the UK.

Telling the story of Eva Peron, wife of former Argentine dictator Juan Peron, *Evita* follows Eva's journey from humble beginnings through to extraordinary wealth, power and iconic status.

Madalena Alberto returns to the role of Eva, for which she received critical acclaim in the 2014 West End revival. Her other credits include the role of Fantine in the 25th anniversary production of *Les Misérables*.

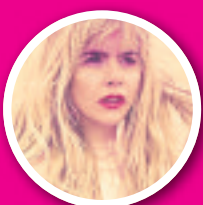
Evita is one of the most popular musicals including the songs *Don't Cry For Me Argentina*, *On This Night of a Thousand Stars*, *You Must Love Me* and *Another Suitcase in Another Hall*.

Other theatre highlights to look out for include comic alternative history from *Told By An Idiot* with Napoleon Disrobed at Birmingham Rep's studio theatre *The Door* from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday. At Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre are masked drama group *Vamos Theatre* with *A Brave Face* tonight and tomorrow, and comedy chaos for all the family with *The 4 Clowns of the Apocalypse* on Tuesday.

Ex-Strictly
Come Dancing
pro Brendan Cole brings his All Night Long show to Symphony Hall in Birmingham tomorrow (Friday) and Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Tuesday. Contemporary dance fans will head to Birmingham Hippodrome on Friday and Saturday for Ballet British Columbia, Canada's leading modern dance company. There will be Asian dance at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Saturday when Jaivant Patel Dance present *Holi: Basant Ke Rang*, a celebration of spring dedicated to the memory of Wolverhampton Mayor Elias Mattu.

Paloma on way to the Genting

POP star Paloma Faith returns to the West Midlands following the success of her fourth album, *The Architect*, with a concert at the Genting Arena on Wednesday, March 13. Hackney-born Paloma, 36, who recently became a mother, is known for hits *Chasing*, *Only Love Can Hurt Like This*, *Picking Up The Pieces*, *New York, New York*, *Never Tear Us Apart*, *Crybaby* and *Stone Cold Sober*. Support from XamVolo. Paloma is back for Forest Live at Cannock Chase on June 29.



'Elvis' back in the building, 50 years on

Fifty years ago Elvis Presley's career was revived by the '68 Comeback Special, a one-off television show aired by American network NBC, and to celebrate that milestone theatre impresario Bill Kenwright brings tribute show *This Is Elvis* to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

From Monday to Saturday, the touring show will recreate that classic concert and the drama leading up to it with award-winning tribute artist Steve Michaels in the role of Elvis. Steve has played alongside some of Elvis Presley's iconic band mates including the extraordinary Jordanaires and the soulful voices of the Sweet Inspirations. *This Is Elvis* includes such hits as *Trouble*, *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Blue Suede Shoes*, *Hound Dog*, *Jailhouse Rock*, *In The Ghetto* and *Suspicious Minds*.

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WOLVERHAMPTON
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CHOICE



Will.i.am

The Voice UK (ITV, 8.30pm)

It's the first of the knockout shows as 12 acts sing for a place in the semi-finals. Coaches Jennifer Hudson, Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Olly Murs can pick only one act from their teams to progress in the competition, so there are some tough decisions to make. Helping them are guests Craig David, members of the Black Eyed Peas, Kylie Minogue, Leona Lewis and The Voice UK's reigning champion, Mo'Nique.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Classic Mary Berry. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** MasterChef. (R) **2.15** MasterChef. (R) **3.15** MasterChef. (R) **3.45** Wanted Down Under Revisited. **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v France (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.00** BBC News. **7.10** Regional Programme. **7.20** Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman welcome Sam Nixon and Mark Rhodes, Ellie Taylor and Milton Jones, Jay Rayner and Thomasina Miers, and Paul Martin and Sara Pascoe to the general knowledge quiz. The famous faces must try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. **8.10** Casualty. Rash's new-found confidence is tested when he treats a prisoner, who also leads Gem into danger. Bea goes up against snarmy F1 Eddie for a place on a coveted training course. **9.00** Troy: Fall of a City. Paris finds himself on the run as a fugitive, hunted by Greek forces intent on avenging the slight that sparked the flames of war. Seeking a safe refuge, he returns to his shepherd roots and the hills where he grew up. Meanwhile, back in Troy, Helen is left without a single ally as Pandarus's investigation gathers momentum, and the Trojans try to exploit divisions among the Greeks. Historical epic, starring Louis Hunter, Jonas Armstrong, Bella Dayne, David Threlfall, David Gyasi and Joseph Mawle. **10.00** BBC News; Weather. National Lottery Update. **10.20** Match of the Day. Highlights of Bournemouth v West Bromwich Albion, Huddersfield Town v Crystal Palace, Stoke City v Everton and Liverpool v Watford in the Premier League. **11.20** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Highlights of Swansea City v Tottenham Hotspur at the Liberty Stadium and Manchester United v Brighton & Hove Albion at Old Trafford. **11.50** Film: Gambit. (2012) Comedy remake, starring Colin Firth, Cameron Diaz and Alan Rickman. **1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Wonder of Animals. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Designers. **8.00** Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Gorilla Family and Me. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.35** Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? (R) **12.35** Orson Welles: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.20** Film: Waterloo. (1970) **3.30** Me and My Dog: The Ultimate Contest. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** The Repair Shop. (R) **6.00** Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall explores the Somerset Levels, where he visits Worthy Farm, home to Glastonbury Festival, before heading to the Secret World Rescue Centre. **7.00** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galletti head to the foothills of the Swiss Alps to experience health and wellness tourism at the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz. (R) **8.00** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. The naturalist investigates whether animals and plants have developed an awareness of mathematics, including bamboos that flower exactly the same around the world. **8.30** Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon are asked to provide a guard of honour for a train carrying George VI passing through Walmington-on-Sea. (R) **9.00** Film: Suite Francaise. (2014) Premiere. Passion develops between a woman and the Nazi officer stationed in her home during Germany's occupation of France. Second World War drama, starring Kristin Scott Thomas. **10.40** Performance Live: Winged Bull in the Elephant Case. An immersive performance, combining dance choreographed by Wayne McGregor and others with music and spoken word, filmed underground and in London's National Gallery. **11.10** Film: Defiance. (2008) Three Jewish brothers escape into the woods during the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, and launch a series of guerrilla attacks on German forces. As word of their actions spreads, other refugees join them to form a larger resistance movement. Second World War drama, starring Daniel Craig. **1.15** Civilisations. (R) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **11.50** ITV News; Weather. **12.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v Scotland (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.25** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Ireland (Kick-off 2.45pm). **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** ITV News; Weather. **6.15** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.30** New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including footage of a golfer being surprised by an alligator, and a child being fired into a belfry. **7.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. George Ezra opens the show with a performance of his new hit, as well as joining Ant and Dec on stage for the End of The Show Show. Ashley and Jordan Banjo from dance troupe Diversity are pushed to their limits in the return of Get Out Of My Ear! Stephen Mulhern and Scarlett Moffatt join in the fun, and another player gets the chance to Win the Aids. **8.30** The Voice UK. The first of the knockout shows as 12 acts sing for a place in the semi-finals. Guests include Craig David, members of the Black Eyed Peas and Kylie Minogue. **10.30** ITV News; Weather. **10.45** Film: Fast & Furious. (2009) News of a friend's murder brings international fugitive Dominic Toretto back to his home city of Los Angeles in search of revenge. It is not long before his pursuit leads him to cross paths with FBI agent Brian O'Conner, and despite their hostile feelings toward each other, the pair work together to bring down those responsible. Thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez and Jordana Brewster. **12.45** Play to the Whistle. (R) **1.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Winter Paralympics Live. **8.00** Winter Paralympics Breakfast. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Film: Casper. (1995) Supernatural family comedy, starring Christina Ricci. **3.20** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.25** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **5.30** Winter Paralympics Today. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages. The actress discovers the idyllic coastal villages of East Anglia. She travels by train to the Edwardian holiday resort of Weybourne, and goes dredging at Clew next the Sea. Penelope also hears a scandalous take in Suffolk, and heads to Thorpness, Suffolk, to visit a village inspired by the tale of Peter Pan. Finally, she takes in the ancient settlement of Dunwich and ends her journey at Aust once was. **8.00** Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge explores the Severn Estuary, visiting the site of a medieval village that disappeared into the sea and finding out how important the ferry crossing at Aust once was. **9.00** Film: Fantastic Four. (2015) Premiere. A gifted young scientist joins a secret project researching inter-dimensional travel, and return from a journey to another world granted superhuman powers. Their abilities make them the only hope for Earth's survival when a colleague who was lost on their expedition returns to wreak vengeance. Superhero adventure, starring Miles Teller, Michael B Jordan, Kate Mara and Jamie Bell. **10.55** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jon Richardson and Michelle Wolf take on guest captain Jonathan Ross with Johnny Vegas, while three-man comedy act Pappy's helps out in Dictionary Corner. Last in the series. (R) **11.55** The Inbetweeners. The friends prepare for their exams. Simon makes progress with Carli by helping her revise, and the gang members get together to reminisce about the past year. Last in the series. (R) **12.30** Winter Paralympics Live. **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.30** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.25** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.25** 5 News Weekend. **6.30** FIA Formula E Live. The Punta del Este ePrix. Vernon Kay presents coverage of the sixth round of the campaign, which is held in Punta del Este, Uruguay. **8.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Documentary giving an insight into cash-strapped Britain from the perspectives of debtors, creditors and those who collect the payments, including High Court enforcement bailiffs and repossession teams. The series follows each case as it unfolds, recording the thoughts and feelings on both sides, the process of repossession and the impact it has on all involved. (R) **9.00** Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights of the weekend's games, including Leeds United v Sheffield Wednesday at Elland Road, Barnsley v Millwall at Oakwell, Wolverhampton Wanderers v Burton Albion at Molineux and Bolton Wanderers v Aston Villa at the Macron Stadium. **10.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Oxford United v Peterborough United and Rochdale v AFC Wimbledon. **10.30** Live: Hayemaker Fight Night. Matt Askin v Stephen Simmons and Joe Joyce v Donnie Palmer. Coverage of the respective cruiserweight and heavyweight bouts, which take place at the York Hall in Bethnal Green. **12.00** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. A compilation edition of the home improvement series, with interior designer Ann Maurice revisits some of her most striking transformations of kitchens and dining rooms. (R) **5.10** House Busters. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **8.00** The Silk Road **9.00** Below the Surface **10.30** 101P2 **11.15** Irish Rock at the BBC **12.15** Top of the Pops: 1985 **1.15** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **2.15** The Silk Road **3.15** TOP2 **4.00** Close **ITV2** **11.45** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.20** Film: License to Wed (2007) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30** Film: License to Wed (2007) **3.05** Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** Film: Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004) **4.55** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **6.50** Film: Gravity (2013) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** Film: Gravity (2013) **11.10** Family Guy **12.10** American Dad! **1.05** Action Team **1.35** Ibiza Weekender **2.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **1.10** Inspector Morse **3.25** Film: Columbo: Playback (1975) **5.00** Vera **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Inspector Morse **1.10** The Good Karma Hospital **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **1.30** ITV Racing Live from Uttoxeter. **4.00** Film: How the West Was Won (1962) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: How the West Was Won (1962) **7.10** Storage Wars **8.00** Film: Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** Film: Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **9.10** Film: Wanted (2008) **10.55** FYI Daily **11.00** Film: Wanted (2008) **12.00** Film: The Dictator (2012) **1.00** FYI Daily **1.05** Film: The Dictator (2012) **1.45** Minder **2.35** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **12.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **12.30** The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** Young Sheldon **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer **5.15** Extreme Cake Makers **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The World's End (2013) **11.10** Gogglebox **12.15** Five Star Hotel **3.20** Timeless **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube **Film4** **11.00** Rio (2011) **1.00** Step Up All In (2014) **3.10** Hulk (2003) **5.50** Avatar (2009) **9.00** R.I.P.D (2013) **10.55** The Pyramid (2014) **12.40** Citadel (2012) **2.20** Maniac (2012) **4.00** Close

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SUNDAY’S TV MARCH 18

CHOICE



Keeley Hawes

The Durrells (ITV, 8pm)
New series. In the first episode of a new series, the family are surprised to find out that Leslie has three different girlfriends, so Louisa decides to take it upon herself to help him pick one by having each member of the family invite their favourite girl to afternoon tea. Larry injures his leg and Theo decides to use his newly set-up x-ray unit to try and examine it. Elsewhere, Gerry continues to grow his animal collection, Margo takes up a job as Theo's assistant, and Aunt Hermione arrives in Corfu for good.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Lifeline. **12.25** Songs of Praise. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Wigan Athletic v Southampton (Kick-off 1.30pm). **3.35** A Question of Sport. (R) **4.05** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Leicester City v Chelsea (Kick-off 4.30pm). **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Ellie Harrison travels to Pembrokeshire to assess the effects of recent storms on the area's coastline. Adam Henson visits Scotland's Rural College to look at the latest research into reducing farming's impact on global warming, while Tom Heap looks at declining sales in lamb, and learns about the problems this has caused for the UK's sheep farmers. **8.00** Hold the Sunset. Bob suggests that Roger apply to become his mother's paid carer – but the only problem is that she is in perfect health, so he needs someone more in need of support to pose as her. **8.30** Film: Brooklyn. (2015) Premiere. An Irish woman living with her mother in the 1950s decides to make a fresh start in America. She makes her home in New York, and falls in love. However, her past catches up with her when she receives bad news from Ireland, and faces a harsh choice between her two homes. Drama based on Colm Toibin's novel, starring Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, Jim Broadbent and Julie Walters. **10.10** BBC News. **10.30** Regional Programme. **10.40** Paddy McGuinness' Sport Relief Warm Up. The host rows, walks and jogs from his home to the Sport Relief studio in Salford, and along the way looks at highlights from past events and offers previews of Sport Relief 2018. **11.40** Film: The Sentinel. (2006) A secret service agent is framed for murder as he tries to expose a neo-Nazi militant who has infiltrated the White House. Spy thriller, with Michael Douglas and Kiefer Sutherland. **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Coast. (R) **7.05** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.50** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.20** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.30** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.45** The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives. (R) **1.45** Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago. (R) **2.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.45** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) **4.45** Back in Time for Tea. (R) **5.45** Film: Catch Me If You Can. (2002) Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks. **8.00** Top Gear. Matt LeBlanc tests the world's fastest-accelerating car, with a little help from NASA. Chris Harris pens a heartfelt love letter to the Citroen 2CV, while Rory Reid samples some exciting cars from South Korea. Dara O Briain and Ed Byrne are the studio guests. **9.00** Famously Unfit for Sport Relief. Entertainer Les Dennis, presenter Susannah Constantine, actress Tameka Empson and comedian Miles Jupp embark on a muscle-grinding mission to regain their fitness. Cameras follow the foursome over a 10-week period as they run, climb and swim their way back to fitness, culminating in one of the UK's hardest and most demanding physical challenges – which sees the quartet tackle a muddy and exhausting assault course in freezing temperatures. The programme also features visits to two projects in the UK, illustrating some of the ways in which money raised through the fund helps vulnerable people. **10.00** The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R) **10.30** Top Gear: Extra Gear. Rory Reid puts his engineering skills to the challenge of building a rear wheel drive car. With guests touring car champion Chris Turkington and comedian Brennan Reece. **10.55** Women's Six Nations Highlights. Action from the final round of fixtures, which were England v Ireland at the Ricoh Arena, Wales v France at Parc Eirias and Italy v Scotland at the Stadio Plebiscito. **11.25** Film: Being Blacker. (2018) **12.55** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** The Voice UK. (R) **12.55** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) **2.30** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **3.30** The Harbour. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **6.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. An abandoned puppy is brought in with a skin condition that is so severe the vets are unable to determine its breed, and Paul tries to prepare his dog for a neutering operation. (R) **6.30** ITV News: Weather. **6.45** Regional Programme: Weather. **7.00** Celebrity Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts a celebrity special of the guessing game, challenging Chris Kamara, Stacey Solomon and Catherine Tyldesley to see it and say it. **8.00** The Durrells. New series. In the first episode of a new series, the family are surprised to find out that Leslie has three different girlfriends, and Aunt Hermione arrives in Corfu for good. **9.00** The Good Karma Hospital. New series. Ruby encounters new challenges as a blistering heatwave hits Kerala, while Lydia decides she is ready for her first solo night shift. But when a storm hits Barco, Ruby faces an agonising test that stretches her medical skills to the limits. Return of the medical drama set in southern India, starring Amrta Acharia and Amanda Redman. **10.05** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Peston on Sunday. (R) **11.15** Six Nations Highlights. Jill Douglas presents action from the final round of fixtures, featuring England v Ireland, Wales v France and Italy v Scotland. **12.10** Marcella. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **6.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Mobil 1: The Grid. **8.00** Winter Paralympics Breakfast. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Winter Paralympics Today. **2.00** Winter Paralympics Closing Ceremony. Coverage from PyeongChang Olympic Stadium in South Korea. **3.15** Film: Epic. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Amanda Seyfried. **5.15** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer. (R) **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Britain's Polar Bear Cub. Behind the scenes at the Highland Wildlife Park near Kingussie in Inverness-shire, following efforts to breed the nation's first polar bear cub for 25 years as keepers mate Arkots with Victoria. Cameras reveal the highs and lows of the staff's attempts to breed one of the world's most recognisable and endangered animals. **8.00** Escape to the Chateau. New series. Series following a British family restoring a French chateau. As summer arrives, Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree are busier than ever with seven weddings and 14 food lovers' weekends to prepare for. And as if that wasn't enough to keep them busy, they must also sort out the garden, work on a stables conversion and embark on a surprising floating adventure. **9.00** Homeland. Carrie puts a plan in motion. Saul visits a source and Keane makes a desperate plea. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Elizabeth Marvel. **10.05** 13 Commandments. New series. A provincial Belgian town is rocked by the murder of a 16-year-old girl and the case takes a shocking turn. Crime thriller, starring Dirk Van Diijk. In Flemish. **11.00** Film: Solace. (2015) A psychic helps the FBI to identify a serial killer, but realises the murderer has mental powers of his own. Crime thriller, starring Anthony Hopkins and Colin Farrell. **12.55** The Last Leg. With guest Claudia Winkleman. (R) **1.50** The Job Interview. (R) **2.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.25** Gillette World Sport. **3.55** Undercover: Who's Policing Your Bank? – Channel 4 Dispatches. (R) **4.25** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.20** Food Unwrapped. (R) **5.45** Kirstie's Homemade Home. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moly. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.10** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.30** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.45** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **10.55** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.25** Film: Getting Even with Dad. (1994) **1.30** Film: Richie Rich. (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **3.15** Film: My Girl. (1991) Drama, starring Anna Chumley and Macaulay Culkin. **4.15** 5 News Update. **4.20** Film: My Girl. (1991) Concluded. **5.20** Film: Junior. (1994) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **7.20** Film: Jumper. (2008) A man discovers he has the ability to teleport, a talent he cleverly exploits to rob banks undetected while living a life of luxury all over the world. However, he soon learns he is not the only one with this power – and that a secret society of religious fanatics is determined to wipe out him and all of his kind. Fantasy thriller, with Hayden Christensen, Jamie Bell and Samuel L. Jackson. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Film: The Equalizer. (2014) A retired secret agent applies his talents to the task of helping victims of injustice. When he witnesses a prostitute being beaten up by a pimp, he kills the man, an act that draws him into a battle to the death with a Russian crime syndicate. Action thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Denzel Washington and Chloë Grace Moretz. **10.00** 5 News Update. **10.05** Film: The Equalizer. (2014) Concluded. **11.35** Film: The Expendables 2. (2012) The mercenary team battles a rival band of hired guns who have killed one of their number. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Jean-Claude Van Damme. **1.35** SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.30** World's Most Pampered Pets. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth **9.00** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **10.00** Film: 13 Minutes (2015) **11.45** The Riviera: A History in Pictures **1.45** Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth **2.45** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **3.45** Sounds of the Seventies **4.00** Close **ITV2**
12.55 The Voice UK **2.55** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **5.05** Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **7.00** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **ITV3**
7.00 Murder, She Wrote **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure **10.00** Film: The Theory of Everything (2014) **12.30** Inspector Morse **2.25** Blue Murder **3.40** Rising Damp **4.05** Road to Avonlea **ITV4**
11.50 FYI Daily **11.55** Film: How the West Was Won (1962) **2.00** Goodwood Members Meeting. **4.50** Hornblower **6.10** Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **9.00** Film: Windtalkers (2002) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Windtalkers (2002) **11.50** Film: Above the Law (1988) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55** Film: Above the Law (1988) **1.55** River Monsters **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
12.20 The Big Bang Theory **4.20** The Goldbergs **4.50** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.50** Young Sheldon **6.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.50** Film: School of Rock (2003) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Film: 2 Guns (2013) **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Five Star Hotel **3.00** First Dates Abroad **3.25** Hollyoaks **Film4**
1.00 Anastasia (1997) **2.50** Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **4.40** One Fine Day (1996) **6.50** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **9.00** Terminator Genisys (2015) **11.25** The King's Speech (2010) **1.40** Force Majeure (2014) **4.00** Close



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
A Deadly Affair, Channel 5, 3.20pm
 Suspecting her husband Charlie of having an affair, author Mary trails him to the house he has been renovating, only to find his dead body. As she is having her own fling, Mary becomes the lead suspect in her spouse's murder. Thriller, starring Valerie Azlynn, Austin Highsmith and Luke Edwards. (2017)

TUESDAY
The Expendables 3, Channel 5, 10pm
 Soldier of fortune Barney Ross discovers an old friend he was forced to kill is still alive, and has become a powerful arms dealer with vengeance on his mind. Barney is forced to recruit a new band of mercenaries and adopt more modern tactics to deal with this threat to him and his past associates. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Mel Gibson. (2014)



Under Siege, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

WEDNESDAY
A Walk Among the Tombstones, Channel 5, 9pm
 An ex cop working as an unlicensed private eye is hired by a drug trafficker to find the men who murdered his wife. As the detective investigates the case, he discovers the men he is tracking have killed many times before and takes desperate measures to stop them claiming another victim. Crime thriller based on Lawrence Block's novel, starring Liam Neeson and Dan Stevens. (2014)

THURSDAY
Under Siege, Channel 5, 10pm
 Terrorists infiltrate a US battleship in a carefully orchestrated move to steal its arsenal of nuclear weapons, unaware the ship's resourceful cook - a veteran US Navy Seal - and a scantily clad stripper are about to foil their plans. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal, Erika Eleniak, Gary Busey and Tommy Lee Jones. (1992)

FRIDAY
The Net, Channel 4, 12.10am
 A computer analyst has to prove her true identity after her details are replaced by a false police record on the national database. Thriller, with Sandra Bullock, Jeremy Northam, Dennis Miller and Diane Baker. (1995)

The stars are out to shine in the aid of a good cause

Whether you're a couch potato or a seasoned sprinter, we hope you have been on your feet this week and making your steps count.

In the lead up to tonight's Sport Relief, the Billion Steps Challenge has been taking place as the British public have been encouraged to get active, have fun and raise cash to help people living tough lives both in the UK and around the world.

For the first time, tonight's show comes live from Salford, with the mayhem beginning at 7pm as Gary Lineker, Davina McCall and Ore Oduba welcome viewers.

Throughout the night, the baton is then passed to Paddy McGuinness, Claudia Winkleman and Freddie Flintoff as they guide viewers into the early hours.

As is always the case with Sport Relief, a host of famous faces will be stepping into unfamiliar territory, all in the name of entertainment and fundraising.

Celebrity Boxing makes a comeback, as six fearless stars don

their gloves and mouth guards and take to the ring for a triple-bill of bouts. Wayne Bridge faces Spencer Matthews, Hannah Spearritt goes head to head with Vanessa White and Camilla Thurlow takes on Helen Skelton.

Also during the evening, comedian John Bishop lands a role he could only have dreamt of and sets out on a mission to help England win the World Cup.

We'll see a Clash Of The Channels Boat Race, while Sue Barker hosts a special edition of quiz A Question Of Sport.

There will be regular visits to 5-Live-A-Side outside the studio, where Robbie Savage's celebrity all-star team are attempting a whopping 12 hours of non-stop football.

Strictly Come Dancing brings a welcome dose of glitz and glamour to the evening as three football legends – Alex Scott, Chris Kamara and David Ginola – don their sequins and show us their fancy footwork.

Throughout the night, there will be a look into how money raised through Sport Relief can help vulnerable people in the UK and across the world to live happier, healthier, safer lives, with a special focus this year on maternal health, malaria and mental health.

There will be updates on Zoe Ball who has been taking part in a cycle challenge from Blackpool to Brighton to raise mental health awareness, after the death of her boyfriend, cameraman Billy Yates, last year.

Zoe says: "I wanted to do something for him. One in four people is living with mental illness. That's a lot of people struggling."

In 2016, Radio 1 DJ Greg James finished five triathlons in five days in five cities and raised over £750,000.

This year, he has taken part in another epic challenge, officially named Pedal To The Peaks, but nicknamed the Gregathlon.

He said: "My last challenge was unbelievably difficult but I think we're about to top it. This challenge is even more ridiculous."

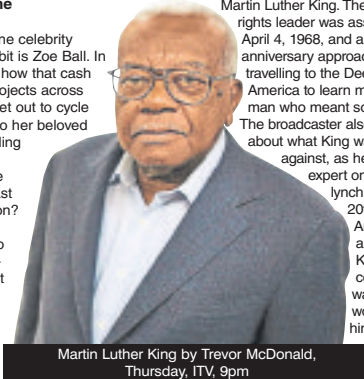


The biennial fundraiser, Sport Relief 2018, Friday, BBC1, 7pm

BEST OF THE REST

THURSDAY
Martin Luther King by Trevor McDonald
 ITV, 9pm

Throughout his career, Trevor McDonald has met many remarkable people. However, there is one man who he always wishes he could have spoken to – Martin Luther King. The American civil rights leader was assassinated on April 4, 1968, and as the 50th anniversary approaches, McDonald is travelling to the Deep South of America to learn more about the man who meant so much to him. The broadcaster also discovers more about what King was fighting against, as he speaks to an expert on the horrors of lynching in 20th-century America and meets a former Ku Klux Klan member who confesses there was a time when he would have targeted him because of the colour of his skin.



Martin Luther King by Trevor McDonald, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

FRIDAY
Live International Football
 ITV, 7.30pm

Netherlands v England (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from the friendly at the Johan Cruyff Arena, as England began preparations for the World Cup. Gareth Southgate's men qualified for the finals unbeaten, but he will still feel there is room for improvement as he looks to find his strongest team ahead of the finals in Russia. Despite finishing third four years ago and as runners-up in 2010, the Dutch have failed to qualify for the World Cup this time around and are now looking to rebuild under the guidance of new manager Ronald Koeman, who had spells as boss of Southampton and Everton. With analysis from Ian Wright, Lee Dixon and Patrick Kluivert, and commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle.

Britain's Favourite Food
Channel 4, 8pm
 Simon Rimmer looks at some of the nation's favourite branded foods, which found fame in a past era. In the first of two programmes, the cook and restauranter tells the story of Angel Delight, revisits the golden summer of 1979 with lollies like Zoom and Fab, relates the amazing tale of Blue Nun and the wine the French allegedly adored - Le Piat d'Or.

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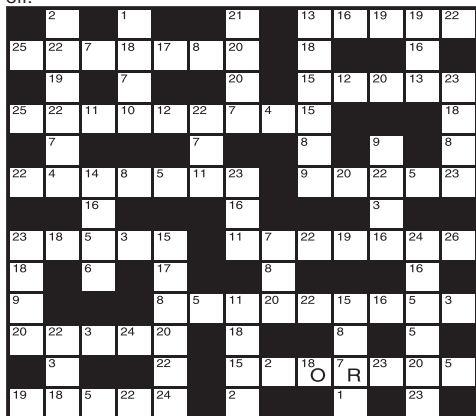
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Z | O | J | N | G | I | B | E | L | W | U | A | X |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| H | S | M | C | K | Y | Q | P | T | V | B | D | F |

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

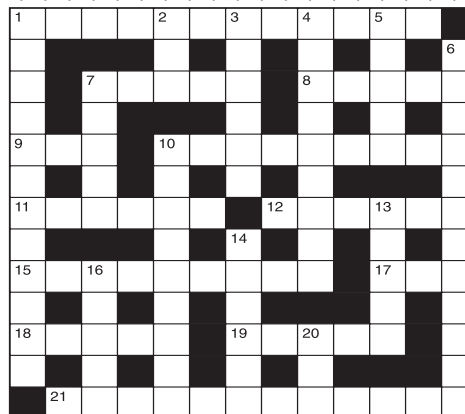
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Where they are well-endowed to deal with complaints? (6,6)
7. Some support for the workers (5)
8. A quaintly pleasing French accent (5)
9. Finished up with paid help (3)
10. Finished after only half the distance and stretched out (9)
11. Country hat (6)
12. Hang about as many fish (6)
15. Little known, but giving one credit (9)
17. No alternative (3)
18. One is about to make a racket (5)
19. Put a watch on (5)
21. Condenses Enid's solo act, perhaps (12)

Down

1. Successor clearly seen (4,8)
2. Food and drink (3)
3. Don't agree it's rubbish (6)
4. Deadlock with an old friend (9)
5. Drinks and a sandwich (5)
6. A quality we don't care to show (12)
7. Battle for the chairman's seat? (5)
10. Bullies those who work around the pit (9)
13. Ridiculed a conductor, we hear (5)
14. He has a part in a Shakespeare play, but may be fired (6)
16. The atmosphere in a small company may be capital (5)
20. It is not sensible to stop up (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. U.S. port (3,9)
7. Later (5)
8. Coach (5)
9. Fasten (3)
10. Perfume (9)
11. One who goes naked (6)
12. Amend (6)
15. Tomb (9)
17. Tavern (3)
18. Boxing ring (5)
19. Sea (5)
21. In various places (4,3,5)

Down

1. Meteor (8,4)
2. Decay (3)
3. Usual (6)
4. Interpose (9)
5. Fetter (5)
6. Endless (12)
7. In front (5)
10. Continuous shooting (9)
13. Constellation (5)
14. Flung (6)
16. Portion (5)
20. Consume (3)

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 3 | | | 4 | 7 | | |
| | 2 | | | | | | 3 | |
| 9 | | 5 | 6 | | 3 | | | 1 |
| 5 | | | 9 | | 6 | | | 2 |
| | 8 | | | 4 | | | 5 | 9 |
| 2 | | | 1 | | 8 | | | 7 |
| 4 | | | 7 | | 9 | 2 | | 6 |
| | 1 | | | | | | 8 | |
| | | 6 | | 2 | | 5 | | |

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| 9 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Fairway; 8 Reason;
 9 Upstart; 10 Tuscan; 11 Reeled; 12 Organdine;
 18 Fatalist; 20 Manager; 21 Skater; 22 Straits;
 23 Intone; 24 Addenda. Down: 1 Oration;
 2 Passage; 3 Domain; 5 Apparent; 6 Rather;
 7 Quick; 8 Defeated; 14 Fiction; 15 Started;
 16 Quack; 17 Galleon; 18 Gilt.
 QUICK - Across: 4 Variety; 8 Opined;
 9 Account; 10 Cougar; 11 Spined; 12 Penitent;
 18 Commence; 20 Colour; 21 Struck;
 22 Comical; 23 Detain; 24 Lengthy.
 Down: 1 Concept; 2 Piquant; 3 Depart;
 4 Sycamore; 5 Iron; 6 Tinged; 7 Lash; 8 Encroach;
 14 Inhuman; 15 Weakens; 16 Morose;
 17 Comino; 19 Mutter.

Quiz

1. In the Arabian Nights, how many journeys did Sinbad make?
2. What is the administrative capital of Bolivia?
3. Which US state is nicknamed the Beehive State?
4. What is the Lord Chancellor's seat in the House of Lords called?
5. What is the capital of Rwanda?
6. Which drug yields both morphine and codeine?
7. Which architect designed London's Chelsea Hospital?
8. What is the longest river in Europe?
9. Who was the Roman god of fire and destruction?
10. Which Canadian territory's capital is Whitehorse?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Kentucky Derby: 2 Pandora: 3 Assyrian:

4 A lizard; 5 Fremantle; 6 Judo; 7 Tree; 8 US

Independence: 9 Zaire: 10 Ceefax.

Niner: MANGROVES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2785328
6422
123496

gives a British city,
gives a second British city,
gives a British town.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

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Brighton breezy and runaway success

RUNNING around a 13-mile course in the cold would not be everyone's ideal way to spend a Sunday morning.

But when it's in Brighton it makes it all worthwhile. With a daughter at university in the south-east city, we have become frequent visitors in the last few months.

So taking on the Brighton Half Marathon, its 28th, seemed the perfect excuse to spend another weekend there.

It was fresh as literally thousands of runners took their places, but the atmosphere was tremendous, with well-wishers cheering on the runners, random children high-fiving and strangers offering energy-boosting jelly babies.

And of course, it gave participants the chance to see the sights of the beautiful city, including the Sea Life Centre, Royal Pavilion and the British Airways i360. The route even takes in Hove and its colourful beach huts.

MERGED

Brighton and Hove merged in 1997 and was given city status in 2000. Of course, one doesn't necessarily need to take the muscle-sapping half marathon route to enjoy what the city has to offer. The i360, for example, offers an all-round view of the city and even of the Isle of Wight.

There's the largest marina in the UK, with its working harbour, residential housing and entertainment including glow in dark golf, cinema and eateries.

The Lanes shopping area features niche retail outlets and pubs, while the city is also home to the Brighton Dome, where Abba won Eurovision in 1974 with Waterloo. And it's home to Premiership football, of course.

Music still plays a big part in the city's culture today.

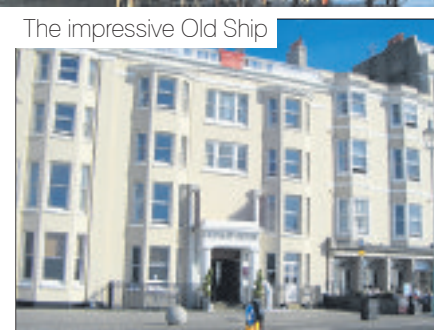
Peruse the shops in The Lanes or stop for a bite



Take time for a stroll along Brighton Pier



The impressive Old Ship



Bands The Kooks, Levellers, Royal Blood and Brit award-winning Rag n Bone Man all hail from the region. As does celebrated DJ Norman 'Fat Boy Slim' Cook, who was also running in the half marathon with his teenage son Woody.

The history of Brighton as a holiday destination of repute dates back to Prince Regent, later George IV, who established himself there in late 18th century, and commissioned leading architect John Nash to create the iconic Royal Pavilion as his seaside retreat.

By 1814 the rail line opened and mass tourism was encouraged. Brighton continued to prosper even after Queen Victoria sold the pavilion. Many landmarks were built during her reign including the listed Palace Pier, the last one standing of three such structures.

The city, aka London by the Sea, attracts visitors all year round with entertainment including England's

largest arts festival, Pride, and a series of London to Brighton runs in the form of vintage cars and scooters, a nod to the 1963 film Quadrophenia, set in the city.

Also dating back centuries is the Old Ship, the city's oldest hotel, established in around 1559. We stayed in the imposing seafront premises, which has more than 340 rooms, a gym and features the listed Assembly Rooms.

Impressive, both from the outside and within, our splendid room had a sea view and the staff were so accommodating, allowing me take breakfast away to eat after the run, and putting back our checkout time to allow me to come back and shower afterwards.

Brighton breezy it may have been, but we are already planning our next trip back.

MARK SHIPP

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Holidays



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- ✓ En-route visit to Cambridge

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Warner Isle of Wight Experience

Departing Monday 3 Dec
from Halesowen

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- ✓ Return coach travel
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by Coach **now only £279**



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Departing Friday 14 Dec
from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
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- ✓ Entrance to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular
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- ✓ Excursion to Norwich

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

29
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 15, 2018

Brand new home in sought-after spot is well presented

Located on arguably Sedgley's finest road, 105 Cotwall End Road is a superb brand new four-bedroom detached home that has been exceptionally designed and has around 1,900 square feet of internal space, as well as an excellent sized rear garden.

It is for sale through Hunters Estate Agents at £515,000.

Presented to a particularly high specification using the finest materials and detail, the accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a formal lounge, a second reception room which could be used as an office/playroom, a downstairs WC, a fantastic open plan full width dining kitchen/family room with a feature island and integrated appliances.

There is a separate utility room which leads to the garage which has an electric roller door. On the first floor there are four excellent-sized double bedrooms, two en-suite shower rooms and a house bathroom.

There are full double glazed windows, underfloor heating throughout the ground floor, gas central heating radiators on the first floor as well as a LABC 10-year warranty. To the rear is a stunning garden with a patio and mature shrubs. The front of the house is approached via a tarmacadamed driveway.

In more detail the entrance hall has ceramic tiled flooring and solid oak doors off the lounge, office/playroom, downstairs WC and the kitchen. The living room has a feature bay window to the front. Also positioned to the front is the office/playroom, while the downstairs WC is nearby.

Having bi-folding doors opening out to the rear garden, the kitchen/dining room has spotlights, ceramic floor tiling, a selection of wall mounted and base fitted cabinets with stone worktops over, a feature island with storage and integrated appliances.

Off the first floor, bedroom one has views over the front and an en-suite shower room. Bedroom two is positioned to the rear and has a similar en-suite shower room. Bedroom three is to the rear, while bedroom four lies to the front.

The family bathroom has spotlights, a wash hand basin in a vanity unit, a bath with a shower over, splash-back tiling and ceramic tiled flooring.

SEDGLEY £515,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Hunters

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EMAIL: Thomas.Newbury@hunters.com



KEY FEATURES

New build

Exceptionally designed

Fabulous kitchen

Four bedrooms/two en-suites

Under floor heating



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Luxury apartment in sought-after spot

BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE
£224,950

A fantastic two large double bedroomed first floor apartment in Galileo, 40 Ryland Street, Birmingham City Centre, is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £224,950.

The property is part of the luxury and most sought-after Jupiter Developments. Situated off Broad Street, it has easy access to Birmingham's financial district, bars, restaurants and last but not least the social delights of Broad Street.

The property comprises an entrance hallway leading to a spacious open plan kitchen/lounge with a Juliet balcony that allows plenty of natural light to fill the living room.

Additionally, the property comprises of two large double bedrooms. The property is also equipped with central heating, double-glazed windows and an overall high energy efficiency build.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

Three-bedroom semi-detached property has three storeys

OLDBURY
£194,950

>>>>

This three-bedroomed three-storey semi-detached house in Old College Avenue lies near great transport links.

Built in 2013 by Bovis Homes on a popular development, it is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at offers over £194,950.

It has an entrance hallway leading to the kitchen with integrated appliances and modern units allowing for plenty of storage.

A spacious lounge with double French doors providing access to the rear garden and fills the room with plenty of natural light. A downstairs W/C and storage cupboard completes this floor.

There are two first floor double bedrooms and a modern family bathroom. A master bedroom en-suite makes up the second floor.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0970.



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DUDLEY, Hillmeads Drive, Oakham

Wonderfully presented DETACHED property situated in the popular OAKHAM area of Dudley. This good-sized family home benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and also boast a spacious entrance hall, well-appointed living room, dining room, kitchen, study, guest W/C, utility, FOUR BEDROOMS, ensuite to master bedroom, enclosed rear garden, double garage, driveway to front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC C SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Northway

AMAZINGLY SPACIOUS! Significantly extended, gas centrally heated, double glazed FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM semi detached with further potential comprising: porch, hall, store, dining room, EXTENDED 19'10" lounge, EXTENDED 14'2" kitchen, walk-in pantry, Gallery landing (possibility of 5th bedroom?), four double bedrooms, bathroom. Double garage, extensive corner plot. EPC: D SEDGLEY



WOODSETTON, Hilary Crescent

A modernised & improved, comparatively SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & double glazed family home within walking distance of so many day-to-day amenities, shops, schools, municipal park etc. Accommodation provides: reception hall, store, lounge (with WOODBURNING STOVE), dining room, kitchen, lobby offering further potential. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom with contemporary style white suite. Delightful well tended sheltered level rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £329,950

Offers in the region of £250,000

Offers in the region of £140,000



KINGSWINFORD, Cot Lane

Enjoying a LARGE and BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT SUNNY REAR GARDEN, DRIVEWAY and GARAGE, within a sought after location, this TRADITIONAL DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers a WELL MAINTAINED and GENEROUS layout which includes FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS. EPC E

No upward chain

£425,000



KINGSWINFORD, Broad Street

A SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED FAMILY HOME convenient for village shops and sought after schools, offering a LARGE layout including: Porch, Reception Hall, Large Lounge, CONSERVATORY, Home Office, Family Dining Kitchen, FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS, En suite and Bathroom. With LARGE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and an attractive rear garden. EPC C

New price

£329,950



SEDGLEY, Langland Drive

A wonderfully presented and much improved traditional semi-detached family home envially located within walking Sedgley centre and other local amenities. Benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing, this superb property also has entrance porch, hall, though lounge, sitting/ play room, re-fitted kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, stunning family bathroom, enclosed rear gardens and drive with garden to front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL TO APPRECIATE. EPC Rating F. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £194,950



WALL HEATH, Fellows Avenue

A SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW which requires updating and improvement, well placed within a sought after location, offering an EXTENDED layout which includes TWO BEDROOMS. Set beyond the LONG FRONT/ SIDE DRIVEWAY and enjoying a good sized sunny rear garden. EPC D

No upward chain

£169,950



COSELEY, Turls Hill Road. Hurst Hill

Fantastically situated with open country views to front and woodland to the back, this ideal starter home has so much to offer. As well as double glazing and gas central heating this TWO BEDROOMS property also boasts entrance porch, living room, breakfast-kitchen, utility room/ guest W/C, bathroom, rear garden and drive to front. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £164,950



KINGSWINFORD, Denleigh Road

A SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW which enjoys a level and convenient setting, offering a SPACIOUS layout which requires some updating and includes TWO BEDROOMS. The bungalow is set back beyond the front garden, DRIVEWAY and with a level rear garden. EPC C

No upward chain

£159,950



UPPER GORNAL, Spills Meadow

A delightfully presented and well maintained link-semi detached in the popular area of Upper Gornal. Being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN, this ideal family home also boasts: hall, lounge-diner, breakfast-kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom with separate W/C and gas central heating along with garage and enclosed rear garden. EPC C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £ 149,950



DUDLEY, The Broadway

●●●BEST & FINAL OFFERS TO BE RECEIVED FOR THE VENDORS CONSIDERATION BY 12-00 NOON ON MONDAY 19TH MARCH 2018●●● FOR IMPROVEMENT, Majority double glazed, traditional, Freehold inter-war semi detached in popular district comprising: porch, hall, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, through lobby. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Large garage, neat garden. EPC:F SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,000



DUDLEY, Old Park Road

An EXTENDED conscientiously maintained UPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated (combi boiler) semi detached offering further potential comprising porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, pantry, extended rear living room, extended kitchen and a wet room beyond (with potential), three bedrooms, bathroom, lengthy garden. EPC Rating E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £144,950



COSELEY, Mount Pleasant Street

OUTSTANDING! - Tremendously modernised and improved gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed and recently re-roofed and extensive re-plastering traditional terrace of character comprising entrance hallway, lounge, lobby, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, sheltered garden. EPC D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £130,000



GORNAL WOOD, New Street

Built in1856, this stylishly presented traditional terraced property is ideal for any first time buyer. As well as being conveniently located, within walking distance to Gornal Village, bus terminal and schools, this quaint TWO BEDROOM also boasts gas central heating and double glazing as well as living room, attractive fitted kitchen, family bathroom and enclosed rear garden. This property is also offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950



WOMBOURNE, Swinford Leys

A GOOD SIZED GROUND FLOOR FLAT with a PRIVATE SINGLE GARAGE which is very well placed within a cul de sac, offering a GENEROUS layout which requires some updating, including ONE DOUBLE BEDROOM and refitted Shower/ Wet Room. EPC C

No upward chain

£80,000



TIPTON, Harper Grove

SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, Upvc double glazed FIRST FLOOR apartment in established convenient district comprising: reception hall, spacious through living/ dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Allocated parking. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

PRICE: £75,000



WOLVERHAMPTON, Park Hall Road, Goldthorn Park

This well-proportioned ground floor apartment is located in the popular Goldthorn Park area of Wolverhampton. Consisting of good-sized entrance hall, living room, fitted-kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY.

PRICE: £75,000



TIPTON, Thunderbolt Way

BUNGALOW ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITY - Located within walking distance of so many amenities a smart double glazed GROUND FLOOR flat representing a fine bungalow equivalent with reception hall, lounge with kitchen section, 2 bedrooms and a bathroom at a realistic, competitive asking price. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:D SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £75,000, NOW £65,000

K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION - 28TH MARCH 2018



90 BURLAND AVENUE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Within a popular location, spacious semi,
Two reception, kitchen, utility area, three
bedrooms, bathroom, garaging facility, off-road
parking, rear garden. EPC: E42

Guide: £90,000 / £95,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 16th & 17th MARCH @ 10.30 a.m.

BUILDING PLOT

93 GOLDTHORN HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON.

Large plot with Planning Permission for erection of a three bedroomed detached house, good location, generous plot depth.

Guide: £85,000 / £95,000



38 PENDEFORD AVENUE, CLAREGATE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Impressive detached ready for improvement, wide
hall, two reception, large kitchen, three bedrooms,
bathroom, two garages, store, long rear garden with
return frontage approx. 180ft. to Aldersley Avenue
EPC: E45

Guide: £155,000 / £165,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 16th & 17th MARCH @ 11.15 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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PROPERTY



Stunning bespoke property has the "wow factor"

'Greenbank' 171 Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, is an absolutely stunning bespoke property packed with the "wow factor".

It is now for sale through Taylors estate agents at £525,000 with no chain.

Situated on its own private drive in a sought-after area, it lies secluded and within a unique location in Sedgley. It has sweeping gardens and stunning open views.

This generously-sized property

SEDGLEY
£525,000

has so much to offer. It includes a porch, an imposing entrance hallway, three reception rooms, a hand-crafted kitchen/diner, an attractive guest W/C, utility room, three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, a double garage and an enormous gravelled driveway to the front.

In more detail, the porch has tiled flooring, a timber frame door and folding doors leading to the imposing entrance hallway. This has stairs to the first floor and cornering to the ceiling rail. Off this, the stunning living room has a leaded window to the front and a bay window to the side, giving extensive open views, plus an attractive feature fireplace with a log-effect gas fire.

To book that all important viewing, contact Taylors on 01902 880888.

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DEFINITION OF RESERVE PRICE
The reserve price is the seller's minimum acceptable price at auction and the figure below which the auctioneer cannot sell. It is usual, but not always the case that a provisional reserve is agreed between the seller and the auctioneer at the start of marketing and the Final Reserve Price will be agreed between the auctioneer and the seller prior to the auction sale. Whilst the reserve price is confidential it will usually be set within the quoted guide range and in any event will not exceed the highest quoted guide price.



128, 130, 130A DARLASTON ROAD



107 THE COTTAGES, CORNGREAVES HALL,
OFF BARN CLOSE, CRADLEY HEATH



LAND ADJOINING, 1 MALLEN DRIVE,
TIVIDALE, OLDBURY



179 WOLVERHAMPTON STREET
DUDLEY



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HIGH PARK CRESCENT Price £460,000
Sedgley

- An exclusive property
- FIVE bedrooms
- EPC rating: C
- Luxury dining kitchen
- THREE en-suites



CLEARWELL GARDENS Price £275,000
Dudley

- A fabulous detached
- Four bedrooms
- EPC rating: TBC
- No upward chain
- En-suite shower room



SUNNINGDALE ROAD Price £250,000
Sedgley

- A beautiful link-detached
- Envious Northway location
- EPC rating: E
- THREE bedrooms
- Extended bathroom



FOXLANDS DRIVE Price £249,950
Upper Gornal

- A lovely modern detached
- Pleasant cul-de-sac location
- EPC rating: TBC
- THREE bedrooms
- NO UPWARD CHAIN



SHALLCROSS LANE Lower Price £239,950
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- Four bedrooms detached
- Pleasant cul-de-sac
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- Modern accommodation
- Office and downstairs WC



THORNLEIGH Lower Price £220,000
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- A detached BUNGALOW
- Having a corner plot
- EPC rating: D
- Two double bedrooms
- Detached garage



SANDYFIELDS ROAD Price £200,000
Sedgley

- A modern semi-detached
- Open aspect views
- EPC rating: TBC
- THREE bedrooms
- NO UPWARD CHAIN



GREAT WESTERN WAY Price £195,000
Kingswinford

- Himley View Kingswinford
- Only 3 years old
- EPC rating: B
- NHBC guarantee
- THREE bedrooms



BIRD STREET Lower Price £164,950
Gornal

- No upward chain
- Three bedrooms
- EPC rating: B
- En-suite and bathroom
- Integral garage



AUTUMN DRIVE Lower Price £131,950
Gornal

- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Quiet cul-de-sac
- EPC rating: D
- Potential rear parking
- SPACIOUS accommodation



COTWALL END ROAD Sedgley

- NEW HOME
- Fabulous family home
- Sought after Sedgley address
- Full width kitchen/family room
- EPC rating: B



- FOUR bedrooms, TWO en-suites
- viewing highly recommended
- 10 year LABC Guarantee
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Price £515,000



QUARRY BROW Sedgley Price £99,950

- No upward chain
- In need of modernisation
- EPC rating: TBC
- TWO bedrooms
- Excellent size garden



ROPER WALK Woodsetton Price £70,000

- A well presented flat
- First floor
- EPC rating: D
- Modern accommodation
- ONE bedrooms



Three-bed home is ideal for a family

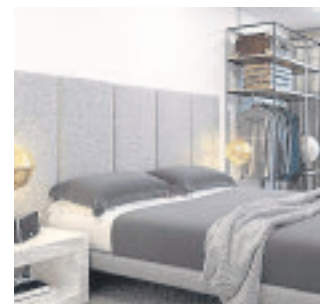
ROWLEY REGIS
£209,950

An ideal family home, this three-bedroomed detached property in Queens Drive, Rowley Regis, is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at £209,950 with no chain.

With majority gas central heating and double glazing, it has a porch, entrance hall with an under-stairs storage cupboard, a lounge, dining room, kitchen and conservatory, three bedrooms and a bathroom, a garage and off-road parking.

The home stands set back from the roadside behind a tarmacadamed driveway with parking for two/three vehicles.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact Tom Giles on 0121 552 6171.



Penthouse apartment in a sought-after spot is superb

BIRMINGHAM
£349,950

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An off plan opportunity, this brand new and highly sought after penthouse apartment in The Kettleworks, Camden Street, Birmingham City Centre, has it all!

It is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £349,950.

The exclusive Kettleworks development by Seven Capital has proved so popular it sold out within two months.

This is your opportunity to purchase a highly sought-after penthouse apartment in the vibrant Jewellery Quarter, a designated conservation area and cultural hub. This three-bedroom apartment located on the exclusive penthouse floor has 963 square feet of modern living – offering open plan living at its finest. This build is scheduled to complete Q3 2018.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

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*Subject to obtaining necessary planning permission

Big challenge for Mitsubishi lies ahead



Slotting between the ASX and the Outlander, the Eclipse Cross brings the Japanese manufacturer into the highly competitive mid-sized SUV market for the first time

By Carmel Stewart

Hoping to Eclipse all others in the overcrowded SUV market, the newest vehicle from Mitsubishi has a big challenge ahead.

Slotting between the ASX and the Outlander, the Eclipse Cross brings the Japanese manufacturer, famous for its off-roading, robust workhorses, into the highly competitive mid-sized SUV market for the first time although making serious inroads into this segment is a big ask.

But Mitsubishi is made of stern stuff. This is, after all, the company which brought us the Outlander, the Shogun and the L200 as well as the Lancer Evo. In the past, it has formed partnerships with a number of manufacturers. In 2017 it joined the Nissan/Renault Alliance which gives it access to a vast array of automotive technology and expertise.

In many ways the Eclipse is an uncomplicated vehicle. One engine – a 1.5litre, turbocharged, 163ps petrol – and two transmissions – six-speed manual for the 2WD version and an all-new eight-speed CVT automatic for both 2WD and 4WD.

It is good looking too with a sporty stance, coupe-like roof line, flared wheel arches and big bumpers front and rear.

The spacious cabin is well put together with a cockpit style set-up up front, clearly delineated dash, rear seats which recline and slide and, what would be great all-round visibility, but for the split rear window. I am assured drivers get used to it in time but on test it proved a slight source of irritation.

One neat aspect of the design is the way the doors are set into the frames ensuring that the lip is kept clean and not splashed with mud which can get on your trouser legs.

On the road, the four-cylinder, 163bhp

engine proved very flexible with plenty of low down grunt well balanced with top end power. Handling was composed and solidly stable with bumps and ruts absorbed by the well set up suspension.

Opt for the 4WD auto version and 'super all-wheel control' with selectable driving modes is included. This is essentially Mitsubishi's version of intelligent four-wheel-drive which sends torque to where it is needed most.

The Eclipse is very reasonably priced at £21,275 and well specified with trims straightforwardly designated 2, 3 and 4, plus the top spec First Edition which comes in at £26,825. An automatic transmission adds to the final tally as does the 4x4 option.

The entry level Eclipse Cross 2 includes 16-inch alloys, rear view camera, Bluetooth, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, cruise control, day time running lights, front collision mitigation and lane departure warning.

Stepping up to 3 and 4 adds more kit and more money. The First Edition will be the hardest to find and the easiest to see. Limited to 250 vehicles, it includes Mitsubishi's diamond red metallic paint finish, First Edition badging and styling highlights.

Technologies available on the Eclipse include smartphone connectivity whereby information from your iPhone is displayed on a seven-inch screen but a word of warning – no smart phone means no sat nav or on-the-go information. Other techie stuff – not dependent on phone ownership – includes forward collision mitigation, lane departure warning, blind spot warning, and adaptive cruise control.

Clearly, the competitively priced, well-specified Eclipse is going to take some of the shine off other manufacturers' sales figures. Just how much remains to be seen.

Customers can now buy new cars entirely online see: www.buy.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk

New MGs come with at least a five-year warranty



The MG ZS leads the way

The entire MG range now comes with its most comprehensive warranty packages ever, with all new MGs receiving at least five years of cover as standard, providing customers with peace-of-mind motoring long after they have driven out of the showroom.

The brand-new Compact-SUV, the MG ZS, leads the way with a seven year/80,000-mile manufacturer warranty. Transferable to any new owner before the limit is reached, the highly-competitive package also guarantees genuine replacement MG parts for the remainder of the agreement.

The rest of the MG range also benefits from enhanced warranty packages. Announced at the start of the year, the MG3 Supermini saw its warranty extended from three years to five years/60,000 miles, offering a further incentive to purchase this stylish car.

The spacious SUV, the MG GS, is also supported by a five year/80,000 miles warranty. By offering at least a five year warranty across the range, MG offers longer warranties on its cars than most other manufacturers, going well beyond with a seven year warranty on the ZS.

Daniel Gregorious, head of sales and marketing at MG Motor UK, said: "We believe in the quality of our cars and we always put our customers at the heart of everything we do. That's why our range now have longer warranties, proving that MG cars are not just great value for money but also reliable and well built too".

Jaguar creates bespoke XJ for Iron Maiden drummer



Jaguar has presented Iron Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain with a bespoke XJ at the Geneva Motor Show this week.

The custom-built car begins a series of celebrations for the model's 50th anniversary, and represents a collaboration between McBrain and engineers at Jaguar Land Rover Classic Works in Coventry.

Together, the car represents more than 3,500 man hours of work, while over 4,000 parts have been replaced or refinished. A variety of upgrades have also been included to bring the XJ firmly up-to-date.

McBrain said: "This is my ultimate XJ – my third, and lovingly named 'Johnny 3'. It has been a true labour of love between Jaguar Classic and myself.

"I'm so excited by its completion and especially to be showing it at Geneva – it really is a Greatest Hits edition and to me it defines what the Jaguar XJ is all about. It's a credit to the craftsmanship of the Jaguar Classic team.

We couldn't have timed it better, this being the 50th anniversary of XJ – my favourite of all Jaguars."

The exterior of the car features unique front and rear bumpers, while the wheel arches have been flared and re-profiled in order to fit 18-inch wire wheels. The rear suspension has also been revised, and adjustable dampers have been included too.

A 4.2-litre in-line six-cylinder engine sits under the bonnet, while machined quad exhaust pipes sit at the rear of the car. The powerplant even features three two-inch SU carburettors from an E-Type, too.

Inside, the car benefits from modern door sealing for better noise insulation, while the seats are hand-trimmed in 'Pimento Red' leather. The car's pedals are inspired by those found on a drum kit.

Many components have been carried over from McBrain's first-ever XJ too, including the iconic leaping Jaguar bonnet mascot and the original ignition keys.



Kodiaq impresses on snowy slopes

By Sharon Walters

Škoda's Kodiaq has amassed a display case full of major awards since launch and is continuing to do so.

No hit the roads and run out of steam after a few months with gongs dwindling. It continues to improve with more models and options including the latest addition – the luxury with the brand's five or seven-seat SUV gaining the Czech brand's top-end trim level, revealed in full this week at the Geneva Motor Show.

Well awards are impressive but it's when you get behind the wheel that you can judge for yourself on a day-to-day everyday basis.

And I certainly did that in a week in the Edition 2.0 TDi 150PS 4x4 with seven seats – and thank heavens I had that 4x4 capability on one particular day. More of that later.

There's a good range of petrol and diesel engines and trim levels with 2WD, 4WD, manual or DSG automatic transmissions.

Conditions

Drive Mode Select allows the driver to adjust the engine management, gearing ratio and power steering input to suit varying road conditions just at the touch of a finger including eco which really reduces fuel consumption and, what turned out to be so important for me, snow mode.

A trip around the Scottish Highlands was lovely with relatively mild weather for the most part, there was plenty of snow lying on the higher ground but the roads were clear of the white stuff, even on Rannoch Moor.

I stopped at almost the highest point to take some photographs of the car with the mountains in the background – lovely. I jumped back in, drove a few hundred yards



The cabin has good quality finish and trim

and ran into a white out, quite literally with a good covering of snow on the road and I could barely see the sides of the road – which dropped into ditches or steep slopes. I tapped it into snow mode, felt the whole car change its 'attitude' and with care made my way down the ever-steepening slope off the moor until I reach a queue of traffic slewed all over the road, two huge timber lorries unable to make it up the slope with a snow plough and gritter stuck behind. What joy.

With a little wiggling and jiggling, thanks to a very organised fellow driver, space was made for the gritter and plough to get through and my car impressed with its ability to reverse on the deepening snow to make a gap and then creep through as other wheels spun...

Feeling rather smug I made my way on.

The Kodiaq is full of the latest technologies with top level passive safety and impressive advanced assistance systems which do much to reduce accidents. And the car has a full five rating from NCAP in safety ratings.



DRIVEN — AT A GLANCE

Škoda Kodiaq Edition

Engine: 2.0 TDi 150PS 4x4
Transmission: Six-speed manual
Performance: Combined mpg 51.4mpg, CO2 144g/km, max speed 121mph, 0-60mph 9.6 seconds
Price OTR: £33,675, £25,750 with extras

Multi-award winning package from Škoda

activation of the warning hazard lights and interruption of the fuel supply in the event of a collision. Crew Protect Assist closes the windows and sunroof, and tensions the front seat belts in.

You also get numerous cameras as well as radar- and sensor-based systems plus the more usual Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Assist, Blind Spot Detect, Emergency Assist, Traffic Jam Assist and Traffic Sign Recognition. And that does indeed all add up to a very safe car.

The cabin is high standard with good

quality finish and trim and easy to use sat/nav infotainment and the like. In fact ultra-modern connectivity has been given a high priority in the Kodiaq, with the inclusion of the Škoda Connect online service which integrates all the traffic flow, Google Earth, fuel stops, parking info etc, as well as an automatic emergency call in the event of an accident.

Plus those rear two seats fold very easily totally flat. A real bonus.

The Kodiaq range has a starting price of £22,190 for the S trim, five-seat, 1.4-litre 125ps manual petrol.

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Model shown: MG ZS Exclusive manual with Tri Coat paint (optional extra £695) in Dynamic Red at £16,190 OTR or £215.87 a month for a 60 month conditional sale agreement. Offer shown available on MG Exclusive manual with solid paint at £15,495 OTR or £199 a month for a 60 month conditional sale agreement. OTR prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months 'Vehicle Excise Duty'. Fuel consumption values shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not be representative of actual driving results. Offer terms and conditions apply. *0% APR: Conditional sale. 0% APR available on all MG ZS models until 31.03.18. A minimum deposit of 20% applies. 0% is not in conjunction with any other offer. Finance by MG Financial Services, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YI, subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over at participating dealers. See your local dealer or visit mg.co.uk/offers for details.

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*Available on Excite and Exclusive models

Vauxhall's go-faster Insignia GSi

Vauxhall's performance variant of its Insignia is in showrooms now and will cost from £33,375.

The Insignia GSi is 160kg lighter than its predecessor, the Insignia VXR, and is available in both Grand Sport and Sports Tourer body styles.

The new model is available with a choice of two engines: a 2.0-litre turbocharged petrol unit and a 2.0-litre biturbo diesel.

As far as performance figures are concerned, the petrol power plant produces 256bhp and 400Nm of torque, while the diesel unit develops 207bhp and 480Nm of torque. Power is sent to all four wheels via an eight-speed automatic gearbox.

In Grand Sport guise, the Insignia GSi can complete the sprint from 0-60mph in as little as 6.9 seconds, and will hit a 155mph top speed. Brembo brakes ensure the car has sufficient stopping power to match that of the engine.

CO2 emissions range between 192g/km and 199g/km depending on body style and engine choice.

Both petrol and diesel versions of the Grand Sport variant are priced from £33,375, while the more practical Sports Tourer estate configuration is available from £34,875.

Style-wise, the Insignia GSi benefits from LED headlights, chrome air intakes, sporty front and rear bumpers, side sills and a large rear spoiler on Grand Sport models.

Large 20-inch alloys fill the car's wheel arches, which are shod in sticky Michelin Sport Pilot 4 tyres.

Moving into the cabin, customers will find leather-upholstered sports seats up front, aluminium pedals, a Bose sound system and



The car has large 20-inch alloys



an eight-inch touchscreen that controls the infotainment system and navigation.

The Insignia GSi also gains Vauxhall's FlexRide system that allows the driver to adjust the steering, damping, gear change points and stability programming by selecting one of four different driving modes.

Vauxhall developed the new Insignia GSi at the famed Nurburgring in Germany, and has claimed that it is their fastest model to ever lap the iconic circuit – although no time has been released.



In Grand Sport guise, the Insignia GSi can complete the sprint from 0-60mph in as little as 6.9 seconds, and will hit a 155mph top speed

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How to improve a car's performance by 70%

The effectiveness consultancy Benchmarking recently analysed what happens when companies include press advertising in their media mix.

They looked at more than 500 econometric models, covering a five-year period and, as the table here shows, they found that adding newspapers dramatically increases the effectiveness of other media.

In the automotive sector they reviewed companies that ranged from the big spending German goiaths of the industry to medium sized independent carmakers.

And they discovered that by adding newspaper advertising to their campaigns, they cranked up their effectiveness by over 70%.

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20% Discount

Local Specialists

Dry Verge Units Fitted

For All aspects of
cleaning & repair call

Robert for a
FREE quote on

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We Fit UPVC

Soffits & Fascias

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Trees felled, hedges
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1

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3

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Harry Garratt, Dudley Chronicle,
51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Local Specialists



Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesmen to deal with your needs and requirements.

Landscapers

LANDSCAPING

Fencing, Patios and Driveways, Turfing and Artificial Grass, Retaining Walls, Pond Installation & Garden Clearance

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01384 387 016



info@terrafirma-arb.co.uk
www.terrafirma-arb.co.uk

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MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE

Save ££££

All size skips and all areas covered

Same day delivery faster than

A phone call!!!!

Open 7 days a week

07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56



Tree Surgeon

TREE SURGEONS

11 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MAINTENANCE & TREE FELLING, STUMP REMOVAL, HEDGE TRIMMING

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Express & Star

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DAINTY & DOWNING

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FAMILY FUNERAL & MEMORIALS

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Funerals: Adam 01902 420452

Headstones: Norah 01902 714530

or Dudley, Laura 01384 263452

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'Proudly independent'

1

Family

Elderly & Disabled

Capitol Mobility Showroom

located in Bath St, Bilston next

to Morrisons with FREE parking

MOTABILITY DEALER

OVER 25 YEARS OF RELIABLE SALES AND

SERVICES OF NEW AND USED MOBILITY

EQUIPMENT, STAIRLIFTS AND ADAPTIONS.

FREE HOME DEMONSTRATIONS.

01902 409929

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STAIRLIFT

Straight left hand stairlift, Handicare Simplicity. Fully assembled, can be seen working. Reason for sale, moved to bungalow.

Buyer to collect.

£700.

07702 806671.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £792. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure Time

Caravans Wanted

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN!

Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

Caravans/ Motorhomes

BAILEY PEGASUS 462

2010, Vango Air tube porch

awning, remote motor movers,

ATC system, hitch and wheel

locks. All the usual refinements

of a top class touring caravan.

£8,750.

07538 651604.

CARAVAN for sale, North Wales, must go, fees paid till 2019. Quick sale, mint condition. 07590 124226.

Caravan Sales

A CHOICE OF CARAVANS FOR sale from £1995 to £6995, accessory shop, service, repairs, storage. Severn Valley Leisure Stourbridge, DY8 4HP 01384 390183 www.severnvalleyleisure.com

Self Catering Holidays

Saundersfoot Bungalow

3 Bed, All En suite, Sleeps 8, Central heating, TV Video, Washing machine, Dishwasher, Microwave

Ring Brochure

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READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertiser that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES

Meadow Holidays

Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale

"Weeks from £209 per couple"

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Families Welcome

Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly inns

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Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY

To sell items upto £250.

Online at

bookanad.

expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

Book Fair

BOOK FAIR Kinver Community Centre, DY7 6ER, inc postcards. Sunday 18th March. Est 1979, Waverley. Next Antique Fair APR 15T. Home made refreshments. 0121 550 4381.

3

Home & Services

Collectables & Memorabilia

FANTASTIC COLLECTION of Guinness Memorabilia over 15 items, prices from £7, please ring for more details. 07548 684497.

KING STREET TOYS

We Buy and Sell

Vintage & Collectable

Toys & Memorabilia

Open Tues-Sat 10-4pm

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www.rewind-vintage-toys.co.uk

In Your Garden

LAWN TRACTOR 22 HP.

42IN CUT

With collector.

As new. Unused.

Cost £4,000

will accept £1,995.

Can deliver. 07710 169150.

Furniture

SETTEES, 2 seater and 3 seater, 3 months old, cost over £1,000, immaculate condition, check material, £400. 01384 348971.

Items For Sale

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ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Buxton on 07834 489558.

ELECTRIC FIRE Danville Optimyst Coal Effect. Only 16 months old. Cost £440 sell £150 for quick sale. 01902 820973.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

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A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS

Any gauge or age

Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.

01384 836219/07891 713547

thetrainmaster67@

hotmail.com

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID

FOR DIE CAST CARS /

LORRIES

Britains, Corgi, Dinky,

Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint

and Mamod Engines.

Best prices paid.

Any condition

Collections bought.

Telephone 01922 327897

or 07976 691563.

COINS MEDALS bought by collector, happy to view anywhere. 01384 273396.

CASH PAID NOW!

WANTED TOOLS

Hand Tools, Anything considered

01543 452 491

07539 340307

READERS ARE ADVISED to

carefully consider all of their options

before agreeing to the sale of any

of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus

any Spectrum 128k+2 computer

wanted also any old Crash or your

Sinclair Magazines. 01902 892918.

WANTED

J40 Pedal car, vintage moped,

Sinclair C5, harp, Vintage

vending / slot machines, Juke

box, anything old, Old fire arms.

Dudley 07930 949337.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

specialists at your service

Aerials

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call 01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by Express & Star

CLEAR VISION AERIALS Free-view, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV, Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

ALAN JONES THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!

Est 1955 - 59 years at the top!

Recommended by thousands

Genuine, honest, 100% reliable

WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO

Call: 01902 885955

ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249

Servicing and Repairs

12 Months Warranty

All areas covered

All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

Appliance Repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers

Auxs, Fridges Vacas and Microwaves.

Call 07900 578897/07801 746853.

Bathrooms

SHOWERS

Supplied/Fitted

Replaced/Repaired

Bath to Shower Conversions

Easy Access Showers

Call James for a FREE quote.

07908 052470 / 01902 758494

Building Services

Davies & Son Builders

Over 35 years exp

All aspects of building work

Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,

driveways & landscaping.

All work guaranteed

Spring Offers! Free Quotes

07837 994465 / 01902 579592

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CLEAN FOR YOU

Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.

Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.

Call Anita on: 07854 169 804.

Domestic Repairs & Services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs.

Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers.

12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

Drain Clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER

Blockages cleared fast.

Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

Driveways & Patios

CRETE BY DESIGN

Concrete Imprinting

* BLOCK PAVING * TARMACING

* RESIN DRIVES FREE QU

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs, 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away. Please call: 07966 281957

KT HOUSE REMOVALS

12 years experience. SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED. Free Quotes - Call Ric on: 07771 727119

A CHEAPER REMOVAL. SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVALS. FULLY INSURED. 7 days. 01902 89 49 16 07807 77 30 35

Student/OAP Discounts

Roofing

COMPTON ROOFING

Tiled, Slate, Flat. New and Repairs Ridge/Hip and Verges Re-bedded. Chimney rebuilding/repointing. Dry ridge and hip systems 07976 419915, 01902 448032

25% OFF SF ROOFING & GUTTERING

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE! Flat, Main roofs, rubber felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing, guttering repaired and replaced. BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED. Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 6pm

ROOFING & GUTTERING

main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes. All quotes beaten, 8am-8pm, 01902 722447

Semi Retired Roofer

ALL ROOF REPAIRS Felt and Rubber Flat Roofing All at reasonable prices 07546 158165

Rubbish Removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed, Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance, 07969 628382

Skip Hire

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE

Mini, midi and large skips GRAB HIRE AND MINI DIGGER AVAILABLE 01384 237577 01902 405745 07719 671845

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 40 years, 01384 232359.

AT M&M SKIPS

Fast, friendly service All areas covered All sizes Same day service Freephone 0800 619 0189 / 07904 915016

Grinsells Skip Hire LTD

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STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

Tiling

BOBS HOME INTERIORS

Wall and floor Tiling Bathrooms Fitted FREE ESTIMATES bob2granger@gmail.com 07480 141537 www.bobsinteriors.co.uk

Upholstery

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!



"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign, also by using the local directory on expressandstar.com we are seeing benefits from visitors to our website."

Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery

For great business results call 01902 319 191

Classified Ads Brought to you by Express & Star

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras, TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and microchipped. Call 01902 291080 or visit www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk

Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton @gtwolverhampton

5 Business & Farming

Accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

Commercial Premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

A SMART SINGLE EN SUITE room in a Shared house, Netherton. £85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks deposit. 07940 116130.

BUNGALOW BUSHBURY, 3 bed detached. Parking. As new. £695pcm. 01384 230222.

DETACHED 3-bed Brierley Hill area, £800pcm, no DSS or smokers, suit professional. 07730 354888

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

We buy houses

Sell your house fast

- avoid repossession
- behind on payments
- job relocation
- unwanted inheritance

What more - we buy in any condition No estate agent fees We pay all your legal fees

ACT NOW!

Contact us on: 07796 801219 / 07988 882090

7 Jobs

Engineering

CRANE BREAKDOWN / SERVICE ENGINEER required by ST Lifting, based in Netherton. Excellent rates of pay, all usual benefits included. Please give Steve a call on 01384 233122.

The ASA regulates ads on websites.

#socialmediatoo

ASA.org.uk

Drivers

HGV CLASS 1 DRIVER required, nights out. Ring 07834 761226 for interview.

Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 May (also 5-6 Sept)
WOLVERHAMPTON: 25-26 July (also 17-18 Nov)
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August TELFORD: 8-9 August

Learn how to take blood

TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

Introduction to Phlebotomy

TWO DAY COURSE - NATIONALLY RECOGNISED

- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info, or to book online: www.geopace.com

High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

Properties Wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price FAST 4 Your House CASH

You agree the price, we buy the house...

- NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

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01384 500 500

30 yrs

www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE

UP TO **£25,000** CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)

• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition

Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Terms apply

0800 389 6788 01902 628047

Yes! HOMEBUYERS THE EASY WAY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE

We Buy Houses For Cash

Free Valuation? Yes! No Fees? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
 Fast Sale? Yes! Any House? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

Get your FREE, instant cash offer today!

Call **01384 913 543** or text "Cash" to 66777 yeshomebuyers.com

Full Time General

MNA Media

SENIOR REPORTERS

The Express and Star is looking for Senior Reporters to join the news team of one of Britain's biggest selling regional newspapers.

The successful candidates will be multi platform journalists working for our popular daily title and award-winning website.

Candidates should be enthusiastic, versatile, creative and prepared to go the extra mile to find the stories for our innovative and highly respected title. They must be accurate, multi-media skilled and be able to work calmly under pressure to meet tight deadlines.

The roles, which involve shift working including evenings and weekends, would suit someone who is qualified to at least NJQ accredited senior journalist or equivalent with a passion for news.

Anyone interested in applying should email

Editor's secretary Karen Baker at karen.baker@expressandstar.co.uk. Please indicate in your application if you have a driving licence.

Closing date for applications: 6th April, 2018

Owners of Express & Star Ltd and Shropshire Newspapers Ltd

Express & Star STAR

Full Time General

King Charles I School
 Comberton Road
 Kidderminster DY10 1XA
 Tel: 01562 512880

EXAMINATIONS OFFICER

We are seeking to appoint an examinations officer to organise and administer all aspects of internal and external examinations within the school. The post has annualised hours of 1443 per annum and is for term time week days only plus the school training days (pro rata) and five other days in August for GCSE and A Level results. The working pattern is likely to be 37 hours a week but a flexible approach to hours will be needed due to the nature of the post. Salary scale SC5 (point range 22-25).

King Charles I School is a well-resourced 11-18 school with a sixth form. Our students are enthusiastic, talented and keen to succeed. If you are too, we would like to hear from you.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Further information and an application form are available on the school website (www.kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk). The completed form should be emailed or posted to the school by 10.00am on Monday 19th March. We intend to interview later in the week.

KING CHARLES I SCHOOL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

The Museum are currently looking to recruit a

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE FOREMAN

(Visitor Operations)

to lead the Operations Cleaning and Maintenance Team who provide routine, day to day maintenance, site operations and high levels of cleanliness. £18-24k (dependent on experience)

To view the full job profile and to apply for this role please visit www.bclm.com or call 0121 521 5619 for an application form.

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

FORD FIESTA 1242CC 2008, 20,400 miles, silver, 12 months MoT, service history, excellent condition. £2,995 ono 07793 293422.



FORD FIESTA

2013.

23,000 miles.

Red, Electric windows. Air Con, alarm. Long MoT. Central locking. One owner from new. Stereo. CD. Lady owner.

£5,600.

01902 790827.

HYUNDAI AMICA

2007, 42,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, long MoT, auto, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo, CD, spots.

£1,895 ono.

07979 143250.



MERCEDES CLK 200

2007, 149,200 miles, Obsidian Black, all leather interior, with all avantgard extras.

£2,575

07469 316572.

Cars Over £1500



VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE 2009, 36,500 Miles, abs, electric mirrors, air con, long MoT, central locking, Alloys, 998cc, very good condition. £2,299 ono 07879 403302



MINI COOPER HATCHBACK

2007, 73,500 miles, chilli red, air con, alarm, long MoT, central locking, diesel, alloys.

£3,200 ono.

07843 095070.



NISSAN DUKE ACENTA

1.5 DCi SPORT

2011.

Full MoT. Good tyres.

Grey. Air con.

Cd.

Clean.

£5,300 ono.

01902 250546 / 07598 736154.

Cars Under £1500

GOOD RUNNER

NISSAN MICRA

01 plate, petrol, serviced, new battery, 1000cc, MoT till July, very reliable

Good condition.

£550 ono.

07506 370873.

Classic Cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

Driving Tuition

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £50, 10 lessons £100, £22 an hour thereafter. Call now 07958 051263.

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR
ALL SCRAP CARS,
VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts
available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE
WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best
Prices Paid ELV Registered
Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or
0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and
commercial. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE
DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or
70553. Evenings 75397.
DY9 3JZ.

**spares &
accessories**

**Clutches/Brakes/
Gearboxes**

**A CLUTCH
CHANGE MOBILE**
Renault Scenic, Vauxhall
Zafira, Renault Clio,
Ford Focus & KA
and MANY MORE!!
Ring for quotes
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328
07972 169554
anytime

Spares/Parts

WINTER SALE Thule Roof Bars
and Spares. Wolves Hire
01902 746723 WV6 0LE

Vehicles Wanted

WANTED
CLASSIC CAR

Triumph, MG, Mercedes etc.
running or not, anything
considered.

Cash paid.

Telephone Ron

07424 399776.

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best
price for your unwanted cars/vans.
07903 549849, buyer will call.

9
**Local
Information**

Public Notices

**PUBLIC
& LEGAL
NOTICES**

For convenience you
may fax any advertising
requirements to Marie
Hogg on 01902 319694
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/
contact number for confirmation
of receipt)

**GO
AL**
THE ONLY READ FOR
REAL FANS
EVERY MONDAY
Express & Star

10
Personals

General

**ARE YOU A LIVING WILL
BENEFACTOR?**
Are you alone with no family or
heir and wondering what the
future holds especially in old
age and end of life care for you
and possibly your pets?
Call or text 07944 818083

Personal

FREE TEXT MESSAGES from
women wanting discreet ADULT
FUN! Call 0121 620 2445 for full
details. Discretion assured!

**GENUINE, ATTRACTIVE,
SLIM MAN**

54, caring, GSOH, WLTM
genuine lady, 40-58 for
Friendship, fun days and
evenings out, cosy nights in.

Box Number P21106,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOWER LATE 70's
House and car

WLTM a genuine lady with
GSOH for companionship.

Box Number P21108,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Sports Clubs

SALTWELLS UNITED F.C.
We are looking for experienced
players to join a very ambitious
club to play in our

**Under 14's Team for Next
Season.**

The Club will be based in Hale-
sowen and will play in Stour-
bridge Youth League Next
Season.

Chairman and Welfare Officer
has over 30 years in Youth
Football, Manager has F.A.
Level 2 and proven experience
at Youth Level.

This year taking a side to the top
of Stourbridge Div 3 before
Christmas.

For more info call Martin on
07437 566109.

**BUY
LOCAL
SELL
LOCAL**
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

Most ads are
legal, decent,
honest and
truthful.

In 2016, the ASA
removed 4,824 that weren't.

REACH CUSTOMERS ON THE MOVE

Advertise your business
on the **NEW LOOK**
Express & Star website
www.expressandstar.com

To find out how you can benefit call MNA Digital on 01902 319730

Boxer in polished debut performance

DEBUTANT Damien Kwior caught the eye on fight night at Walsall Town Hall. Alex Florence, Tivdale's Ryan 'Stewart' Davies and Danny Ball of Kingswinford were all victorious on the 'Class of 2018' card.

Despite a number of cancellations, organisers BCB Promotions made sure the show went on. Ledbury's Florence, a 21-year-old super lightweight, put Czech Republic's Jan Korec to the sword early, referee Kevin Parker bringing proceedings to an end in the first round.

Davies recorded a first career stoppage, in four rounds over Birmingham's Myles Vale, while super welterweight Ball recorded a 39-38 victory after being taken the distance by seasoned Bolton fighter Chris Jenkinson.

Topping the bill was Poland's decorated amateur Kwior, making his eagerly-awaited professional debut. He looked comfortable throughout his four round contest with Bulgaria's Anatoli Lyubenov and recorded a 40-36 victory. A moment's reflection, and a collection, was held in memory of Reagan Asbury who died outside the venue in October.

Princess Royal unveils uni's fitness facility

A NEW Sport & Fitness Club at the University of Birmingham has been officially unveiled by HRH the Princess Royal. She unveiled a plaque and delivered a speech as part of a formal opening ceremony.

The University of Birmingham's Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood welcomed the Princess to the new facility before she was introduced to Chancellor Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea, Pro-Chancellor Ed Smith, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Myra Nimmo and Director of Sport Zena Wooldridge OBE.

The royal visitor met students, athletes and staff and was given a tour of the facility, led by Zena Wooldridge, with visits to the 50m swimming pool, fitness studios, squash courts, the indoor multi-purpose arena and sports hall, climbing wall and performance centre.

The Sport & Fitness Club opened its doors to students, staff and the community in May 2017, providing a new gateway to the University's iconic Edgbaston campus.

Gavin gutted as plug pulled on title bout

BIRMINGHAM boxer Frankie Gavin's hopes of a world title fight later this month have been left on the canvas by the loss of a major sponsor.

The show at the Genting Arena continues with a strong line-up including four title bouts. But Gavin said he was devastated at losing the chance to fight for a world title. He was due to face African Bethuel Ushona for the vacant IBO Welterweight World title on Saturday March 24.

But the team behind his big night – billed as 'Now or Never' – have been forced to pull the headline fight after a major sponsor failed to materialise. The show goes on with a full undercard promoted by Black Country Boxing.

Gavin said: "I am absolutely gutted. To have the opportunity to win a belt and decent purse snatched away from me has left me devastated."

Kevin Baker, of BWI Promotions who were hosting Gavin's fight, said the team was hopeful of finding another option for him in the spring. Tickets are still available at theticketfactory.com but anyone who has bought a ticket for [Gavin] can obtain a refund by contacting their point of purchase.



Black Country Rangers players celebrate a goal



First team boss Wayne Spicer and, inset, the club's new badge

Growing team flies the flag for Black Country

BLACK Country Rangers are on a mission to become a major player on the non-league scene.

While the action on the pitch may have been hampered by the recent wintry conditions, there has been plenty going on off the field at the ambitious West Midlands League club.

Rangers run one side at the moment, in the Premier Division, but are now expanding.

They have agreed a merger with Sunday League side Black Country Fusion which will result in five adults teams – including a ladies' side – while the club are in the process of setting up an academy.

For good measure, to complete the re-brand job, they have a new badge and will be known as Black Country Football Club.

Black Country Rangers will still exist as the first team but will be under the umbrella of BCF.

First team boss Wayne Spicer provided the initial spark for the ambitious plans.

Challenge

Spicer joined the club in a coaching capacity at the start of the season before taking on the assistant manager's role and then moving into the hot-seat when former boss Lewis Jones stepped down.

He quickly identified the need to expand and now the club's hard-working board have taken up the challenge.

"I just felt that if we want to be sustainable and develop things in the future then we need to be a club," said Spicer.

"At the minute we are not a club we are just one team, Black Country Rangers.

"So we have decided to put a board together and add other teams to create one club.

"We are merging with Black Country Fusion and we are starting an academy for six to 12-year-olds and looking at adding other youth teams.

"We are looking to get other coaches on board and are going to be holding trials for different age groups.

"If we are going to be an aspiring semi-professional team that wants to go as high as possible, then we

SPORTING FEATURE

By Liam Keen

"We just needed to make sure we had the right people to meet this new challenge head on."

need youngsters coming through. We realise there is a massive gap between Sunday league and the level we play at, what we have to try to do is bridge that gap.

"Hopefully we can set up a reserve side in the future to help bridge the gap to the first team but top of the hit list at the moment is to get the academy up and running.

"This is something I was keen to drive forward and credit to everyone at the club because they have been working hard to get things off the ground.

"Pete Whitehouse, who is the head of the academy, has been working really hard and the chairman, Paul Garner, has been behind everything and really supportive.

"The merger with Black Country Fusion has resulted in Skye Stewart coming on board and she has been absolutely fantastic in all aspects.

"It will help build a more sustainable club instead of one team, as well as having 10 brains working on it instead of one."

Spicer added: "I'm very confident of how the merger will go, our main goal is to become one of the biggest clubs in the Black Country, playing football the right way."

Joining forces with Fusion has resulted in Skye Stewart become vice-chair of the club.

And Stewart is aiming high. She said: "This benefits both clubs, we're being ambitious and the merger can drive us forward instead of plodding along where we are. We want to stamp our mark on the Black

Country. We want the teams to do well, become well known in the region and grow a future for children in the Black Country. It'll help with our sustainability," she added. "It's the start of our future and we want to take it as far as we can and be the next big club in the Black Country."

Chairman Garner is excited at what the future holds. He said: "This is something as a club we have been looking to do for a long time, we just needed to make sure we had the right people to meet this new challenge head on.

"Non-league football is about people sharing a vision and common goal and we feel bringing Skye on board, who has so much passion for the game and desire to improve on something successful she has already built, will only propel the club to greater heights.

"We are excited about the future and any new challenges that may lie ahead."

Promotion

While the future is looking bright for the club, the present is not too shabby either.

Spicer has wasted little time making his mark in only his second taste of management, having led West Bromwich United to promotion from Division Two and League Cup glory last season.

Rangers are unbeaten in 13 games since he took on the lead role and their eye-catching brand of football has even been featured on Soccer AM, who showed a clip of a stunning team goal scored by Kieron Clarke against Malvern Town.

A disappointing start to the season put paid to any realistic chance of challenging for the title, but a top four finish is still a possibility.

"We didn't have a great start but we have had a strong middle," said Spicer.

"The best thing for me is that the boys have put their faith in me and bought into my philosophy. Credit to the boys for that.

"We have set high standards and Graham Ward (assistant boss) has added his knowledge and experience to the mix which will only help push us forward as a club."

Final edition

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Honours are shared in last-ball tie

HAGLEY and Chaddesley Corbett shared the spoils in the WCB Indoor League North division.

Hagley's openers Mike Stead and Lee Nightingale both scored well and soon retired. Paul Morgan joined the innings and also scored well but with his run-out the rate dropped until a cameo from Dan Giles pushed the score to 124-4.

Chaddesley captain Bilal was in the mood to chase down the total but they lost their first wicket at 22 in the second over. Shane joined the captain, keeping the momentum going, although a rare failure of Waqas run out for 11, stemmed the flow. Into the last over Mohsin and the returning Bilal required 15. Mohsin was bowled by Ed Rhodes on the penultimate ball with two runs required for the win, then Bilal (53) failed to make the right contact on the final ball and was run-out with the scores level.

In the other game Enville beat Quatt by 67 runs. Batting first, Enville openers set about some friendly bowling which generously included numerous wides and no-balls. The Enville openers soon retired (Jono Howells 30 no and Matt Branch 41 no) and James Willis 25 no continued scoring quickly and Enville reached their highest total this season at 151-3.

Quatt fielded an inexperienced batting line-up and were soon in trouble losing two wickets for 17 within two overs. Ryan Wheldon and Alex Biddle put some respectability to the total but with the dismissal of Wheldon the game was all but lost. Quatt struggled to 84-5.

Ex-Baggie Hughes unable to inspire Yeltz on his debut

Ashton Utd 3 Halesowen 0
FORMER Baggies striker Lee Hughes made his debut for Halesowen following his signing in the week from Worcester City - but the 41-year-old but couldn't inspire his new team-mates to victory.

The ex-Albion hitman had a chance to put the Yeltz in front on only six minutes on Saturday when he was through on goal, but home keeper David Carnell saved with his legs.

That turned out to be Halesowen's best chance of this Evo-Stik Premier fixture, and they went behind on 21 minutes when Daniel Platt saved from Deane Smalley but the Ashton forward netted the rebound.

Platt made a number of good saves to keep the visitors in it up until half-time. Halesowen had a penalty shout on 65 minutes when Lee Knight appeared to be pulled down in the box but the referee waved play on.

On 78 minutes, John Mooney cut through the defence and shot home, and John Pritchard dispatched a late penalty to make it 3-0, leaving Yeltz in the bottom two.

On the oche for hospice fundraiser



A fan with Daryl Gurney

A CHARITY darts exhibition raised £5,500 for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Daryl 'Super Chin' Gurney, Steve 'Bronzed Adonis' Beaton, Jamie 'Cabby' Caven and Alan 'Chuck' Norris took part in the four-man charity tournament at the Parkes Hall Social Club in Dudley, raising money and awareness for the work of the

Hagley Road Hospice as well as The Cystic Fibrosis Trust, which received a further £1,200.

Tickets sold out well in advance with more than 200 darts fans seeing Beaton beat Gurney in the final.

The event was also supported by professional caller, Kirk 'The Kirkulator' Bevins, and walk-on girls Daniella Harper and Char-

lotte Wood, who donated their time to the evening.

It was the second Tungsten Hold 'Em darts event in support of the Hospice. The inaugural event brought in £4,000.

Hospice spokesman Dan Malin said: "The work that Sean and his organising team have put into this event has been just remarkable."



Meeting Steve Beaton

Tivi boss King hails fightback

BOSS Dave King hailed the 'great character and strength' of Tividale after they came from behind to beat Bilston Town 4-2.

Demetri Brown hit a hat-trick and victory sees Tivi remain third in the West Midlands Premier table - four points behind leaders Malvern Town, with three games in hand.

"It was a great win for us, I'm so chuffed with the lads," said boss King on the triumph at Queen Street.

"The lads took a lot of criticism after the 2-1 loss at Wednesfield, our last game before that - and rightly so.

"So to bounce back like that, after going 2-0 down with everyone there gunning against us, was great. We went 2-0 down after starting really slow. The lads showed great character and strength to pull through. Once we got the equaliser, we knew we would go on to win it."

Kartel O'Neil-Martin put Bilston two up, the second from the spot.

Tivi were back in the game before the half-hour mark when Joe Lawley put through Brown and he rounded keeper Victor Pinheiro.

Brown levelled on 70 minutes and completed his hat-trick when he pounced on a mistake by defender Todd Perry. A Joe Lawley penalty completed proceedings.

Cradley Town beat Bridgnorth 1-0, while in the West Midlands (Regional) Division One, Sam Heston fired the winner to help Tipton Town to a 1-0 win at his former club Darlaston Town (1874).

Rugby sides on their travels for Plate ties

DK, Stourbridge and Old Halesonians all have away ties in the quarter-final of the North Midlands Colts Plate.

The competition is for teams beaten early in the North Midlands Colts Cup. Old Hales, beaten 31-13 in the last eight of the Cup by holders Hereford, will travel to the winners of Sunday's preliminary round tie between Telford Hornets and Newport. Stourbridge, who lost 50-0 to Luctonians in the Cup quarters, are at Camp Hill, while DK are at Malvern. Ledbury v Worcester is the other tie.

The Cup semi-finals are Hereford v Birmingham & Solihull, Luctonians v Bromsgrove.

NO LIMITS AS PAIR RETURN

AFTER riding their way to back-to-back titles - in their first two seasons competing on the club circuit - the Double Two Racing boys are plotting another successful year.

Black Country pair Pete Wright and Martyn Siviter have been busy working on their fitness, acquiring new sponsors and getting the laps in during testing throughout the close season.

Wright, from Tividale, and Siviter, from Blackheath, begin their third No Limits endurance campaign next weekend when round one is launched at Snetterton 300, in Norfolk, March 24-25.

Wright said: "We've had a busy off-season, keeping up with gym training. We also had a very successful winter test out at the Spanish Cartagena circuit a few weeks ago.

Wrapped

"That was the first time I'd personally been back on my race bike after breaking my left collarbone in the last round of 2017 at Donington Park."

Double Two Racing had ended last year's campaign in style, pulling out their best result of the year - despite having already wrapped up the title - during the penultimate round at Croft, in Yorkshire, winning the Club 600 class.

The team then signed off with a 100 per cent podium finishing record after coming third at Donington Park during the final round.

The impressive results have seen the Black Country boys attract support from numerous backers and sponsors, which has coincided with their new race colours and livery, thanks to Chalkies Race Decals, while their new race suits were also handmade by DRC Race Leathers.

Double Two Racing will be aiming to win back their Club 600 class title this year. Wright said: "After winning the No Limits newcomers en-



Pete Wright, left, and Martyn Sivite will be back in the No Limits endurance championships

durance championship in 2016, we went on to win the Club 600 endurance title last season, as well as finishing runners-up in the National 600 championship in 2017. We will be contesting the same class again this year.

"It's an exciting start to the season for all the team, sponsors and supporters of Double Two Racing. If any other companies or individuals would like the opportunity to work with a championship-winning team, please get in touch.

"The team offers fantastic sponsor packages

with advertising space on the race bikes and race vans as well as on the very striking racewear, full advertising and live hyperlinks on the professional website, doubletwo racing.co.uk, and our Facebook and Instagram pages.

"We also offer corporate days and hospitality days on race day with free entry to the circuit, full pit garage and pitlane access during the race and pit stops, spending the day with the team, behind the scenes tour with food and drinks laid on, a superb unique experience."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterley, Telford.
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